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WHAT, YOU CALLIN' ME A CON MAN AND A COPYCAT?

CHRISTIAN BALE PULLING FROM LINEAGE OF CROOKS IN AMERICAN HUSTLE PAGE 21

Gay-straight alliance being 'degraded' by board: Student

Teen hungry for legal fight after alleged violations PAGE 4

Pam An game fails to seal hunt's fate

A $1-million cheque from Pamela Anderson and The Simpsons co-creator entices no sealers in St. John's PAGE 10

Feds robbing us of hospital beds: Minister

Deb Matthews says that the federal Conservatives have betrayed Ontario by backing off funding promises PAGE 8

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

The Miracle on 34th Cheat

Christmas came early. Professors panic after students accidentally given answers to exam

Hairy scenario

"It's a professor's nightmare, like students have nightmares of showing up naked to exams."

Psychology professor John Turtle, secretary of Ryerson University's Senate

In what must have seemed like a surprise gift from some sort of Exam Santa, 190 Ryerson chemistry students opened their multiple-choice exams Dec. 9 to discover a bonus clipped to the back: the answers to the first 20 questions.

No one will ever know how many took advantage in the minutes that followed, before an honest soul reported the gaffe to professors overseeing the 50-question exam. Officials immediately asked all 1,000 students writing it in the cavernous Metro Toronto Convention Centre to put down their pens and wait, baffled, while they gathered up the cheat sheets and grappled with what to do next.

A professor had inadvertently printed off an answer sheet for one of the three versions of the exam. The sheet had accidentally been handed out with 190 exam booklets.

"It was a difficult situation," recalled chemistry professor Darrick Heyd.

Should they scrap the exam for everyone? That wouldn't be fair for the 800 who never got an answer sheet, said Heyd.

Should they dismiss all 190 who did get the answer sheet? That would cause a huge distraction for others, and after all, "maybe there hadn't been enough time for students to take advantage," noted Heyd, Ryerson's associate dean of undergraduate science and student affairs.

In the end, they chose to have students pick up their pens and carry on, then see if the marks suggested any academic hanky-panky.

Indeed, when the marks were crunched, it turned out enough of the 190 students did noticeably better on the first 20 questions than on the rest, to suggest some had given in to temptation.

The solution? "We only counted the last 30 questions and that became their mark," said Heyd.

Those upset with the move can write a fresh exam in January. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE SO-SORRY SHUFFLE

Mayor Rob Ford grooves to a live reggae version of Merry Christmas performed by Jay Douglas during a break in the council meeting Tuesday. Many councillors expressed support for reporter Daniel Dale's decision to pursue a libel lawsuit against Ford, who apologized Tuesday for remarks that implied Dale was a pedophile. See story, page 3. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Vote for Goodness

We've been searching for goodness. Here are 5 stories of genuinely good Canadians making a difference in their communities. Have a read. Then vote online for the story you'd like us to share in our next TV ad.

Ethan
St. Catharines, ON

Sometimes, good things come in small packages. Ethan, a Pee-Wee hockey player from St. Catharines, ON, has been collecting used hockey equipment since 2009 and distributing it to underprivileged hockey players throughout Ontario and around the world.

George
Oliver, BC

Wherever help is needed in Oliver, BC, you'll find George. He spends his life spreading goodness in so many ways, but what's really special is the time and effort he devotes to growing fresh vegetables for others. Last year, he donated 1800lbs of veggies to the food bank.

Sharon
Brandon, MB

One person can fill an entire community with goodness. Sharon, from Brandon, MB, is in her retirement years, but she still works 5 days a week at her local soup kitchen. There by 6 a.m. every morning, she tirelessly cooks hot meals for 125-150 people from all walks of life.

Julia and Emma
Oakville, ON

Goodness runs in their family. Teen sisters Julia and Emma from Oakville, ON made it their mission to collect books for remote "fly-in" communities in Northern Ontario. Their charity Books With No Bounds has collected and distributed over 27,000 books.

Coby
North York, ON

This story proves that you can always make time to spread goodness. Coby leads a busy life in North York, ON, but he regularly visits a long-term home for the elderly. Through the joy of music and song, he, and a group of volunteers from The House, bring smiles and a little human tenderness to the aged.

Vote at searchforgoodness.ca

Voting period ends on January 03, 2014 at 11:59 AM ET. Limit of one vote per person per day. See www.facebook.com/shreddies for details.

Lawsuit against Ford is warranted, councillors say

City hall. Toronto Star reporter has called mayor's comments 'vile' and 'defamatory'

Several city councillors expressed support and understanding for Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale's decision to pursue a libel lawsuit against Mayor Rob Ford, who apologized Tuesday for contentious remarks that implied the journalist was a pedophile or pervert.

"It was a horrible innuendo that was cast (Dale's) way, one of the worst things anybody could be accused of," said Coun. Peter Milczyn. He added it was up to Dale to determine whether the apology was sufficient, and that it's his right to sue Ford.

Those comments were echoed by Coun. James Pasternak.

"He has clearly been unfairly maligned," he said.

Dale and Ford might have avoided a legal battle if they had tried to agree on the wording of the mayor's apology before he read it out on the council floor, Pasternak added.

Ford made the comments in question in a recent interview with Conrad Black.

Ford said in his apology Tuesday that a neighbour told him he saw someone "peering over his fence or taking pictures," though he said he never saw it himself.

"I honestly believed my neighbour's account of the event," Ford said.

A police investigation concluded Dale never looked over Ford's fence, and never set foot on the mayor's property. Dale was researching a story about Ford purchasing the public land adjacent to his home

Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly suggested that with the wording of his statement, Ford was offloading his responsibility for the comments onto others.

Dale has dismissed Ford's apology as insufficient because he didn't retract the false claims and issue an "unreserved, abject, complete apology."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

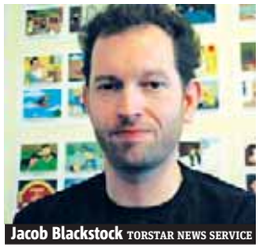
Quoted

"The mayor is an instinctive counter-puncher. That's the sense I have."

Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly

Mayor Rob Ford pantomimes marching himself out of the chamber in handcuffs after he apologized for comments that derailed a city council meeting at city hall on Tuesday. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Make-your-own-comic app blows up



Jacob Blackstock TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Creative collaboration has taken on a whole new meaning for Jacob (Ba) Blackstock.

For years, the Toronto artist and animator had been drawing and trading semi-autobiographical comics with his friends, each colourful pane depicting slightly warped versions of their lives.

But when Blackstock and his friends turned their favourite pastime into a mobile app to share with the world, the response was astounding. It turns out that strangers around the globe also loved the idea of starring in their own comics, and jumped at the opportunity to create a graphic version of their lives.

Suddenly cartoons were flooding Facebook and Twitter feeds thanks to Blackstock's creation, Bitstrips.

"It just blew up," said Blackstock, the CEO and creative director of Bitstrips.

The company released a test version of their iOS mobile app on Oct. 1, and within weeks it was the No. 1 app in the U.S. iTunes store and the No. 1 entertainment app in over 90 countries.

By the end of November, more than 30 million avatars had been created, Blackstock said.

Last week, Horizons Ventures invested $3 million in the company. The investment firm owned by Hong Kong business magnate Li Ka-shing has a history of taking an interest in social-media startups, having previously invested in Facebook and Skype. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pickering

Dentist accused of voyeurism

A dentist is facing a voyeurism charge after police say a camera was found in a washroom used by patients and employees at a Pickering dental office.

Police say officers were called Dec. 11 after employees found a camera recording footage in a washroom.

Police say investigators have recovered computers and video-recording equipment from the office.

Charged is Philip Willenburg, 53, of Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Records

Hydro expenses going public

Toronto Hydro says it will publicly release details of all expenses incurred by its executives and board members going back three years.

The decision to make the expenses public comes a day after it was reported that Toronto Hydro does not routinely make public executive and board member expense-account records. Torstar News Service was told there would be a delay in releasing the records and a cost close to $5,000.

The expenses will now be posted online in January.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tribunal

Cop guilty of G20 misconduct: Ruling

A police officer who arrested a man wearing a bandana around his neck at the tumultuous G20 summit in Toronto three years ago has been found guilty of misconduct — the first such finding arising out of that weekend.

A police-services tribunal convicted Const. Vincent Wong of unlawfully arresting Jay Wall for being disguised with intent to commit an offence.

The adjudicator found "clear and convincing" evidence that Wong had no reasonable grounds to arrest Wall on June 27, 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Student challenges Catholic board over Bill 13 compliance

Accepting Schools Act. Board accused of using gay-straight alliance to talk about religious doctrine, rather than LGBT issues

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

A student at a public francophone Catholic school in Mississauga wants to launch a legal challenge against his school board over its treatment of LGBT students and posters featuring gay trailblazer Harvey Milk.

Christopher Karas, 18, runs a student group at École Secondaire Catholique Sainte-Famille. He said the school administration took down posters he made with Milk's quote: "All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential."

Karas set up the group "Portes ouvertes" after the Ontario government passed the Accepting Schools Act last year mandating that schools allow students to set up gay-straight alliances (GSAs) — groups for LGBT students and their allies.

He alleges the school administration and the board have tried to make the GSA about general tolerance, rather than LGBT issues, and made it difficult for him every step of the way — getting approval of the group, its members, its name, its posters and discussion topics.

"They're not teaching these teachers how to use Bill 13 (the Accepting Schools Act) to its utmost power. They're really trying to degrade it. They're trying to talk more about the Catholic doctrine," he said.

Principal Alaine Lalonde said the group was never intended to be about LGBT issues, according to a report in Xtra. Lalonde refused to tell that paper if he would allow a GSA at the school. Metro could not reach him.

The school board released a statement Tuesday stating it has no objection to the poster campaign and supports the Accepting Schools Act.

However, Karas said he still wants to take on the school board because the problems he's faced show that the board hasn't complied with the act.

Karas has been in contact with groups including the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Egale Canada, which have voiced their support.

He doesn't know yet whether he will take the board to court or a human rights tribunal, or if his case will be focused only on his own situation or tackle broad constitutional issues related to the separate school system.

Karas wouldn't be the first gay student to pursue legal action against a school board.

Jeremy Dias took the Algoma District School Board to the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal in 2002 for stopping him from forming an LGBT-positive group at this school, and eventually settled out of court.

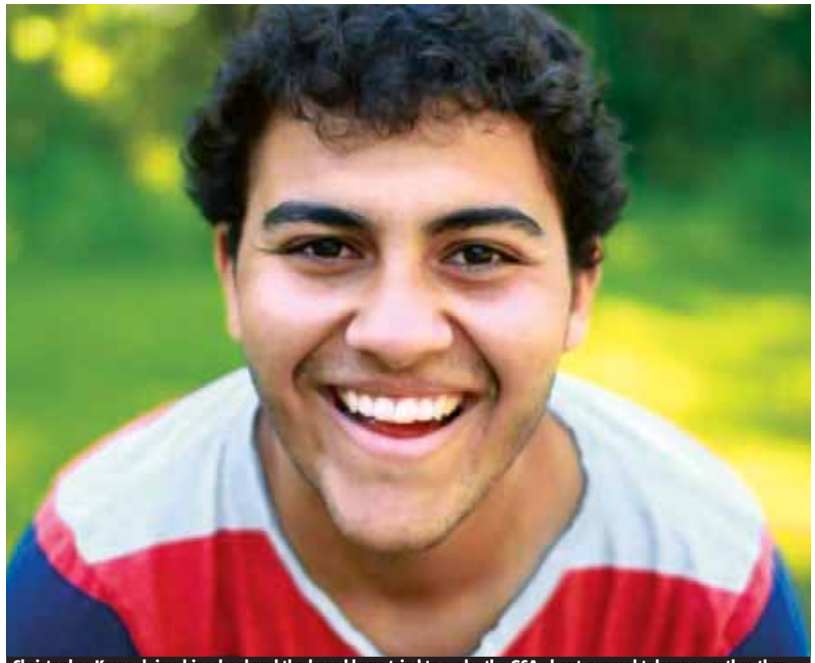
Dias said launching a legal challenge would be difficult for Karas, but Jer's Vision (Canada's youth diversity initiative) would support him.

Fighting his own case was "terrible," he said.

"It was meeting with lawyers who were well organized, full of money," he said. "It was being called a liar to your face about your own personal experience. It was tough."

Nevertheless, he said it would be a great idea for Karas to take on his school system, noting he used the money he won to start his gay-rights non-profit Jer's Vision.

Karas said he's ready to be in the spotlight for what could be a controversial case — but he doesn't believe it should be controversial anymore. "I believe everyone should be treated with respect and that's always what I've been taught in the Catholic community."



Christopher Karas claims his school and the board have tried to make the GSA about general tolerance, rather than LGBT issues. OLIVYA LEBLANC/FOR METRO

Quoted

"They're not teaching these teachers how to use Bill 13 (the Accepting Schools Act) to its utmost power. They're really trying to degrade it."
Student Christopher Karas

Taking the next step

Groups consider action

Doug Elliott, lawyer for the Ontario GSA Coalition, said the group has been reaching out to students who haven't had their rights under the act respected, for a potential "constitutional test case," but none of the students are willing to take a case forward.

Queer Ontario is exploring the possibility of launching a case against the separate school system along with some like-minded groups, said chairperson Nick Mulé. One option being considered is working with Reva Landau, who tried to launch a constitutional challenge to strip Catholic schools of most of their funding last year.

Landau's case was denied because a judge found she lacked standing — a strong enough connection to the school system — to take the case forward. The group has discussed how difficult it would be for a student to take on that role and has been contemplating waging an out-of-court campaign instead, said Mulé.

JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

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Police seek legal opinion on carding

Public meeting. In November, board members heard from speakers calling for an end to street checks

The city's police board has hired a well-known criminal and charter lawyer to get an independent legal opinion on carding.

Lawyer Frank Addario is expected to deliver his assessment in January, which will delay the board's promise of a carding, or street check, policy until later that month.

Addario has "a fairly broad mandate to look at the entire process of interactions between police officers and members of the public," said Toronto Police Services Board chair Alok Mukherjee.

"The service and chief have said that engaging the community is an invaluable tool for gathering information. So we are asking: What constitutes a practice that is legitimate, legal and consistent with charter and human rights legislation?" he said. And further: "What are the requirements on the part of a police officer who engages with a community member?"

The move to solicit an opinion is long overdue, say some legal experts.

Former prosecutor Howard Morton, a member of the Law Union of Ontario, has been urging the board to get an opinion for more than a year.

The law union says the practice violates the equality section of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as the Ontario Human Rights Code and should be stopped.

Morton says Addario is a good choice.

He's a "very fair-minded, balanced person. An excellent lawyer involved in criminal law. And he will understand both the charter and policing issues."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lawsuit

A proposed class-action lawsuit alleging racial profiling, brought by the Black Action Defence Committee against the police board and Chief Bill Blair, has been broadened to include as defendants the Ministry of Community Safety and Corrections as well as Minister Madeleine Meilleur.

- Several individuals, as well as the group Justice is Not Colour-Blind have also been added as plaintiffs in the suit, which now seeks $200 million in damages and additional remedies.

The curious case of car vs. fire hydrant

A woman walks her dog past a downed fire hydrant after a southbound Ford Fusion ran over it at the corner of King and Jarvis on Tuesday. Earlier in the day, the intersection was closed after the car became lodged on top of the fire hydrant, spewing water into the street. Commuters were slowed to a crawl Tuesday as an overnight and morning snowfall coated roads across the GTA. ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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PHILIPPINES365

UNICEF Canada 365 days for Philippines funds will be directed towards programs for children and families affected by Typhoon Haiyan for 12 months. After 12 months of support, your monthly donation will switch over to where the need is greatest for all children. You are free to modify or cancel your monthly donation at any time by contacting UNICEF Canada by phone or email. All monthly donations are tax receipted annually. *Individual monthly gift sign ups before Dec 23rd will qualify for Government of Canada donation matching.

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7955 Financial Dr., Unit B
808 Britannia Rd. W, Unit 2
25 Watline Ave., Unit 10
7205 Goreway Dr.
1100 Burnhamthorpe Rd.
3021 Argentia Rd.
789 Taunton Rd. E
1053 Simcoe St. N, Unit 4B
2150 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W
60 Bristol Rd. E
920 Southdown Rd., BLD H, Unit 7
5100 Erin Mills Parkway, Unit V205
4141 Dixie Rd.
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1905 Avenue Rd.
4367 Steeles Ave. W
149C Ravel Rd.
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3111 Dufferin St.
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1500 Upper Middle Rd., Unit 2
240 Leighland Ave.
OSHAWA
Taunton Harmony Plaza
1053 Simcoe St. N, Unit 4B
285 Taunton Rd., Unit 20
419 King St. W, Unit 2272
PICKERING
Pickering Power Centre
Pickering Town Centre
611 Kingston Rd.
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1480 Major Mackenzie Dr. E
10 West Pearce St., Bldg. B
Hillcrest Mall
9350 Yonge St.
10720 Yonge St.
Times Square Mall
1070 Major Mackenzie Rd. E
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1800 Sheppard Ave. E
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1900 Eglinton Ave. E
3300 McNicoll Ave.
1291 Kennedy Rd.
2555 Victoria Park Ave.
411 Kennedy Rd.
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1448 Lawrence Ave. E
5661 Steeles Ave. E, Unit 5
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1461 Dundas St. W
2 St. Clair Ave. E
272 Danforth Ave.
471 Eglinton Ave. W
662 King St. W, Unit 2
939 Eglinton Ave. E, Unit 106
154 University Ave., Unit 101
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2397 Yonge St.
9A Yorkville Ave.
East York Town Centre
2400 Bloor St. W
919 Bay St.
525 University Ave.
45 Overlea Blvd.
Oriental Centre Mall
1448 Lawrence Ave. E
10 Clock Tower Rd., Unit B1A
1118 Finch Ave. W, Unit 1
623B Yonge St.
3850 Sheppard Ave.
280 Spadina Ave.
443B Sheppard Ave. W, Unit 151
900 Dufferin St., Kiosk 4010
1000 Gerrard St. E, Unit K2
618 Sheppard Ave. W
6758 Kingston Rd., Unit 12
730 Danforth Ave.
333 Bloor St. E
2120 Queen St. E
8 Wellesley St. E
1965-1971 Yonge St., Unit A
120 Front St. E
660 Eglinton Ave., Unit 104
3151 Yonge St.
808 York Mills Rd., Unit 15-17
2400 Eglinton Ave. W
2900 Warden Ave.
130 King St. W., Unit CW15
3401 Dufferin St., Unit 108
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Health care. Tories are shortchanging Ontario, health minister says

The federal Conservatives have betrayed Canada's most populous province by breaking their promise over health care funding, Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews charged Tuesday.

The Harper Tories promised all provinces a six per cent increase in health transfers, but they're only giving Ontario 3.4 per cent in 2014-15, she said.

That means Ontario is out $300 million, while Alberta is getting about $1 billion more — a 38 per cent increase, Matthews said.

"I think it's outrageous," she said during a visit to a Toronto eye surgery clinic.

She said it's a devastating blow to Ontario, which is grappling with rising healthcare costs as its population ages.

The $300 million that Ottawa is shortchanging Ontario is more than the province's increase in home care and other services for seniors this year, she said.

Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews COLIN MCCONNELL/TORONTO STAR

Ontario, which is facing a nearly $12-billion deficit, is the only province that will see fewer federal dollars next year, with total transfer payments shrinking by $641 million to $19.1 billion.

A spokesman for federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Monday that the sums went down because Ontario's economy did better. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Parkdale not-for-profit's Nutcracker returns

A scene from 2012's production of the Nutcracker, Toronto's longest standing community performance, put on by the Pia Bouman School for Ballet and Creative Movement, a Parkdale-based not-for-profit. Danced by local youth aged seven to 18, this year's production runs from Dec. 19-22. Proceeds help to support the school's programs, available to "anyone who has a wish to dance." Go to piaboumanschool.org for more info. CONTRIBUTED

Hamilton

Officer not expected to survive shooting in police station

Hamilton police say that an officer is not expected to survive after shooting himself Tuesday at a police station.

Officials say an officer shot himself in the station's locker room and was taken to hospital in critical condition.

Police Chief Glenn De Caire says the thoughts and prayers of his force are with the officer's family and they will be supported in every way.

The case has been assigned to Halton regional police for a non-criminal investigation and no further information will be released.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Collection changes this Holiday Season

There is no garbage/recycling collection on Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25 and New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1.

Collection schedules change by moving one day forward.

Usual collection day	Moves to
Wednesday: Dec 25 and Jan 1	**Thursday:** Dec 26 and Jan 2
Thursday: Dec 26 and Jan 2	**Friday:** Dec 27 and Jan 3
Friday: Dec 27 and Jan 3	**Saturday:** Dec 28 and Jan 4

Christmas tree collection begins the week of December 30 (on garbage collection days). Remember to remove all decorations, tinsel, stands and nails. The City will not collect Christmas trees set out in plastic or in tree bags.

There are nine versions of the calendar reflecting different collection schedules. Using online maps, you can determine your local schedule. Calendars are available by calling 311. One-page collection schedules are available online at **toronto.ca/recycle**

TORONTO Call 311

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Hollywood gets the cold shoulder

Newfoundland.
Philanthropist, actress attempt to deliver $1M cheque as an incentive to stop the seal hunt

Actress Pamela Anderson and a co-creator of The Simpsons received a frosty reception in St. John's, N.L., on Tuesday as they tried to present a $1-million incentive to help end the East Coast seal hunt.

Members of the Fish, Food and Allied Workers union, representing sealers, shouted questions at Anderson and Sam Simon during a chaotic news conference outside the office of the Canadian Sealers Association.

Simon offered a giant $1-million cheque to the Canadian Sealers Association and said his intention is to respectfully encourage governments to legislate an end to seal licences while protecting aboriginal hunts.

In a letter dated Tuesday to Eldred Woodford, president of the Canadian Sealers Association, Simon said he's making the offer after the World Trade Organization upheld Europe's ban on imported seal products.

A dispute settlement panel said last month that aspects of the embargo undermine fair trade but can be justified on "public moral concerns" for animal welfare.

"With bans firmly in place across Europe, Russia, the U.S., and other countries, the writing is on the wall," says the letter.

"The seal trade is finished. Leaders as diverse as President Obama and Vladimir Putin embrace this change, yet Canadian politicians remain too timid to initiate a buyout for fear of upsetting swing voters in Eastern Canada — and because they don't seem to care about individual sealers."

The association's office was closed and no one from the association was present.

Ottawa and the provincial government announced they'll spend almost $500,000 on a joint pilot project to offer seal meat at stores in Canada and overseas in the new year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Actress Pamela Anderson and Sam Simon, left, co-creator of The Simpsons, talk to media outside the Canadian Sealers Association in St. John's, N.L., Tuesday. They attempted to deliver a letter with a $1-million cheque to end the annual commercial seal hunt to the association but the office remained closed.

PAUL DALY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Murder trial. Knox declares innocence in email to Italian court

Amanda Knox declared her innocence in her roommate's 2007 murder in a highly unusual email Tuesday to the Italian court hearing the case against her. The former U.S. exchange student also said she was staying away from the trial out of fear of being wrongly convicted.

"I didn't kill. I didn't rape. I didn't rob. I didn't plot. I didn't instigate. I didn't kill Meredith," Knox wrote.

Presiding Judge Alessandro Nencini read the five-page email written in Italian into the court record. He noted that the email, presented by Knox's lawyers before their closing arguments, was not a normal procedure in Italy. He said it highlighted Knox's absence and indicated it did not have the same legal standing as a declaration made in person.

Knox explained her absence was out of fear that she would be wrongly convicted. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scotland Yard

No evidence found tying SAS to death of Princess Diana

London's police force said Tuesday there is "no credible evidence" that British special forces were involved in the deaths of Princess Diana and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, and it will not reopen the investigation.

Scotland Yard has been looking into claims that the SAS had played a role.

The claims, widely reported in the British media, were made by an ex-SAS member identified only as Soldier N.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin offers Ukraine $15B bailout, cheap gas

Pro-European Union activists gather during a rally in Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Tuesday.

EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Passageway. Ukraine serves as a key conduit for Russian natural gas exports to Europe

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday opened his wallet in the battle with the European Union over Ukraine's future, saying Moscow will buy $15 billion worth of Ukrainian government bonds and sharply cut the price of natural gas for its economically struggling neighbour.

The announcements came after Putin held talks in Moscow with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, who is facing massive protests at home for his decision to shelve a pact with the EU in favour of closer ties with Moscow. Russia's bailout package angered protesters, who immediately accused Yanukovych of selling out the country to the Kremlin.

Washington said the Kremlin agreements would not address concerns of the demonstrators in Kyiv, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel dismissed what she described as a "bidding competition" over Ukraine.

Putin's move came as Ukraine said it desperately needs to get at least $10 billion in the coming months to avoid bankruptcy. The Fitch ratings agency has given Ukraine's bonds a B-minus rating, which puts them in "junk bond" territory.

Putin sought to calm protesters in Kyiv by saying he and Yanukovych didn't discuss the prospect of Ukraine joining a Moscow-dominated economic bloc they fear will pull their country closer into Russia's orbit.

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Still grieving, Lac-Mégantic residents begin rebuilding their shattered town

Healing process.
A team of 11 grief counsellors stays busy providing individual and group therapy

Workers clear debris and decontaminate the soil earlier this month on the main street of Lac-Mégantic, Que. Inset: Smoke rises from railway cars in downtown Lac-Mégantic on July 6. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Staring at the spot where her sister's bed once stood, all she could make out amid the ash was a nest of mattress springs gnarled by the intense heat.

Louise Boulet said the building that housed younger sister Marie-France's home had burned to the foundation shortly after a runaway train carrying volatile crude oil roared into her Quebec town of Lac-Mégantic.

The tanker wagons bounced off the tracks in July and erupted in a series of powerful explosions, razing part of Lac-Mégantic's core and killing 47 people.

Marie-France Boulet, 62, was among the victims, though officials could not positively identify her remains.

With 2013 coming to a close, the Boulet family, like so many in the region, are working to rebuild their lives and their town following a disaster that grabbed the world's attention.

Since the July 6 crash, millions of dollars in government funding has been pledged for the massive environmental cleanup and reconstruction; blueprints have been sketched for a new downtown; and discussions are underway to see whether the tracks can eventually be re-routed outside of railway-dependent Lac-Mégantic. These changes are taking place amid an ongoing grieving process for the town of 6,000.

The Boulet clan, who held a funeral for Marie-France in September, is one of three families advised this month that the remains of their loved one could not be identified. To date, eight of the 47 victims have yet to be positively identified through scientific testing, though their deaths have been declared.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lac-Mégantic

Rail traffic set to resume

The tracks have been repaired and trains are set to roll through Lac-Mégantic on Wednesday, five months after a runaway train carrying crude oil derailed, exploded and killed 47 people. The railroad remains a vital component for local industry and the economy.

Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway Ltd., the company at the centre of the disaster, is expected to be sold in the coming weeks. Mayor Colette Roy-Laroche is concerned the next owner could resume cash-generating oil shipments through the town.

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Pfizer settlement

Generic Viagra available in 2017

Pfizer Inc. has reached a settlement with Teva Pharmaceuticals that allows the generic drugmaker to launch a copycat version of its popular erectile dysfunction drug Viagra in 2017.

Pfizer said Tuesday that Teva will pay an undisclosed royalty for a licence to produce a generic version of Viagra, one of Pfizer's bestselling drugs. Viagra generated about $1.14 billion in U.S. sales last year and more than $2 billion worldwide.

Pfizer's patent protecting Viagra from generic competition expires in April 2020, but Teva Pharmaceuticals USA Inc. will be allowed to launch its generic version in the U.S. on Dec. 11, 2017. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal court

Group challenges Ottawa's refugee health-care cuts

A group of doctors says Ottawa didn't have the legal authority to cut back health-care coverage for refugee claimants.

Lawyers for Canadian Doctors for Refugee Care told a federal court Tuesday the move wasn't an act of parliament, nor was it a regulation — which they argue makes it invalid.

The group is challenging the changes along with the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers and two claimants who say losing their coverage caused them severe psychological stress.

Until June 30, 2012, Ottawa covered medical costs for claimants until they were eligible for coverage or their claims were rejected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Firefighters battle a major fire in downtown Kingston, Ont., Tuesday. Inset: A crane by a search and rescue helicopter from CFB Trenton. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dramatic Kingston

Worker trapped.
Helicopter used to save crane operator stuck high above massive blaze that broke out at under-construction building

In a dramatic rescue Tuesday that drew a gasping crowd, a military helicopter airlifted a worker trapped on a crane above a massive fire in Kingston, Ont.

Police said the crane operator suffered only minor injuries after being stranded when the blaze broke out around 2:15 p.m. at an apartment building that was under construction.

John Ashie was working at his family's car dealership down the street when his father asked him about the black smoke that was rising above the neighbourhood.

The 22-year-old stepped onto the street just in time to see bright orange flames burst through the roof of the five-storey apartment complex.

"Thirty seconds went by and then the whole top was up in flames," Ashie said. "It seemed kind of out of control at that point, by the time the first fire truck got there."

Not long after, those who had gathered to watch fire officials battle the blaze noticed a figure perched atop a construction crane at the burning apartment complex.

There were a few anxious moments as those on the ground watched the fire continue to grow.

"As the flames started to get bigger and bigger and bigger, it started to get pretty worrisome," said Ashie. "He must have been going through hell up there."

A Griffon helicopter deployed from CFB Trenton plucked the worker from the crane and took him to a waiting ambulance. Police said all the other construction workers at the site are believed to be accounted for.

Another worry for officials as fire crews fought the flames was a concern the blaze could spread to nearby buildings. Police went door-to-door advising residents to evacuate and at least one home near the burning building caught fire.

Utilities were shut down in the area to make it safe for those battling the fire.

Meanwhile, city buses were pressed into service to shuttle residents who lived within a few blocks of the blaze to an evacuation centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

operator sits on top of a crane as the fire raged below. The man was later rescued

rescue in firestorm

A search and rescue helicopter team rescues a crane operator during a fire in downtown Kingston, Ont., Tuesday. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.S. politician drops cyberbullying complaint

A Nova Scotia politician who says she was bullied online after a topless photo of her was posted on Twitter has dropped the complaint she filed with the province's new cyberbullying investigations unit.

Lenore Zann, a member of the Nova Scotia legislature from the Truro area, says she's satisfied that police and CyberScan have done all they can.

"The young man who started the whole thing rolling has been very good and he hasn't been in touch with me," she said in an interview.

Last week, the former actress complained she had been harassed on Twitter over two weeks after she was sent a photo taken from the cable TV series The L Word, in which she appeared topless in 2008.

Zann said when the sender refused to delete the image, the online conversation soon included others who retweeted the picture and hurled vulgar insults at her. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Truro-Bible Hill MLA Lenore Zann has dropped her complaint to Nova Scotia's cyberbullying investigations unit. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Will factory collapse have a lasting impact?

Labour conditions. Bangladesh tragedy has led to some reforms, but effect on shoppers still remains to be seen

The world's worst garment industry accident had ripple effects beyond Bangladesh in 2013, as the fatal building collapse turned a lens on poor conditions endured by workers and brought fresh focus to production practices used to create affordable goods.

More than 1,100 people died in the April 24 tragedy at the illegally constructed Rana Plaza. Items created for Canadian label Joe Fresh were among those manufactured on-site, but a number of other clothing makers were also housed in the complex.

Joe Fresh brand owner Loblaw Companies Ltd. joined several retailers in signing a pact to improve fire and building safety in Bangladesh. In October, the company said it would provide short-term financial support to all workers or dependents of New Wave Style (which produced Joe Fresh items) and plans to join with British retailer Primark to provide financial assistance to workers of all retailers in the factory plaza.

While there have been corporate reforms in the aftermath of the tragic incident, whether there will be a long-term impact on how consumers shop remains uncertain.

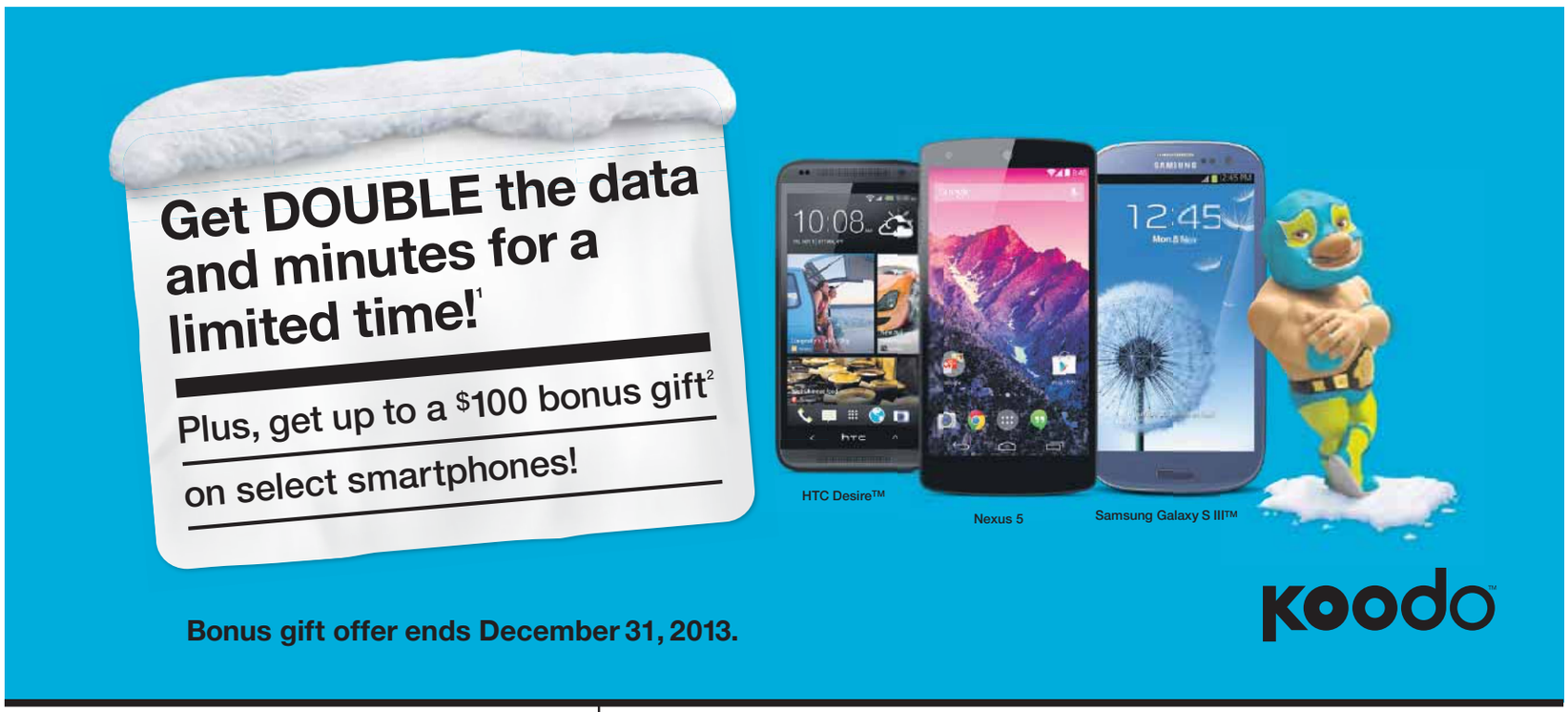
"Ultimately, what it's going to come down to is that industry needs to make these changes so that consumers can still shop with the convenience and the ease that they're used to — just knowing that the brands that they're buying from have cleaned up their act — and that they're making their clothes in an ethical environment," said Kelly Drennan, founder of Fashion Takes Action, a Canadian non-profit focused on sustainability within the fashion industry.

"It's chicken and egg. Are consumers going to change the way they shop and then that's going to dictate if industry changes? Or will industry change first and then consumers will just be buying stuff without even knowing it was made ethically? That seems to be more the way it's going."

Workers try to recover two bodies trapped in the rubble of the collapsed Rana Plaza garment factory building near Dhaka, Bangladesh on April 30. More than 1,100 garment workers were killed in the factory collapse.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

THE CANADIAN PRESS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Vaughan Mills
White Oaks Mall
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall

Rob Ford tops Google Canada's 2013 trending list

Mayor can't beat the Biebs. Absolute most-searched-for person of the year in Canada was pop star Justin Bieber

After dissecting the more than 40 billion queries submitted throughout 2013, Google Canada has declared Toronto's Mayor Rob Ford as search term of the year.

While Facebook was the absolute top search of the year — as it has been for several years running — Ford topped Google's so-called trending list, representing the search terms that stood out most compared to previous web history.

Ford was followed by the late Canadian Glee actor Cory Monteith, who died of an overdose in July; Fast and Furious actor Paul Walker, who was killed in a car crash last month; murder victim Tim Bosma; and the Boston marathon.

Miley Cyrus and Robin Thicke perform onstage during the MTV Video Music Awards in New York City in this August file photo.
NEILSON BARNARD/GETTY IMAGES FOR MTV

Robin Thicke was the top trending musician, ahead of Miley Cyrus, Justin Timberlake, Lorde, Lou Reed, Macklemore, Bruno Mars, Beyonce, Daft Punk and Eminem.

One of the most interesting annual lists Google releases is a countdown of trending "what is" searches, which reveals what topics web searchers were keen to learn more about. "What is twerking" topped the list, and the provocative dance was also the No. 1 "how to" search.

In federal politics, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau got the most searches, followed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Replaces the late Larsson

New author to pen Girl With Dragon Tattoo sequel

The Swedish publisher of the bestselling The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo trilogy said Tuesday it has hired an author to write a sequel to the series by Stieg Larsson, who died in 2004.

Norstedts said it signed a contract with David Lagercrantz, the author of I Am Zlatan, a biography of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, the captain of Sweden's soccer team, to write a new novel about journalist Mikael Blomkvist and hacker Lisbeth Salander that is scheduled to be published in August 2015.

Larsson's trilogy about a darker side of Sweden has been a huge success, with more than 75 million books sold. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mall is No.1 on Instagram

Will she be posting that pic of an aquatic animal display at Siam Ocean World in Siam Paragon shopping mall to Instagram? The luxury mall in the heart of Bangkok has claimed this year's crown as the world's most photographed location on Instagram in 2013, says the photo-sharing app. SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 94.25¢ (-0.21¢)

TSX 13,180.09 (-4.32)

OIL $97.22 US (-$0.26)

GOLD $1,230.10 US (-$14.30)

Natural gas: $4.28 US (+$0.02)
Dow Jones: 15,875.26 (-9.31)

Facebook. New auto-play video ads in news feeds could 'push people away'

Investors are giving a thumbs-up to the idea of Facebook making hundreds of millions in new revenue from video advertisements, but some users argue that the social network is already too cluttered and has become more about commercialism than communing with friends.

Facebook said Tuesday that it's testing video advertisements that show up in its users' news feeds. As part of the test, Facebook said some of its users on Thursday will see a series of videos teasing Summit Entertainment's upcoming release of Divergent, a film based on a young adult novel with the same name, in their feeds.

While investors liked the idea, with Facebook's shares hitting an all-time high of $55.18 US on the news Tuesday, the reaction from users has been less positive.

Ben Wachtel, a 23-year-old from Indianapolis and a Facebook user since high school, says he feels like he and his friends are using the social network less and less, as ads crowd out posts from real people. "If they add videos, especially auto play ones, it's just going to push people away." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Your news feed is about to get more cluttered, with video ads. GETTY IMAGES

Thumbs down?

Jon Knott, a 22-year-old Facebook user from Chicago, says video ads could be the "final straw" for young adults like him, who are growing tired of Facebook's busy nature.

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'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

By the time you read this, someone could be at least $636 million richer.

That's the U.S. Mega Millions jackpot, which was drawn last night. If nobody wins, the next draw will be Friday, and the prize will approach $1 billion, which is so ridiculous, it's hard to type.

Of course, Uncle Sam gets his half right off the top, but that will still be a cool half billion after taxes.

Buried somewhere in the fine print are the odds, which are only about one in 259 million. But somebody has to win eventually, and it won't be you if you don't buy a ticket.

Canadians are eligible to buy a Mega Millions ticket, but only if they cross-border shop to do it. So when you're shopping for cheese or cheap gas, don't forget your one-in-259-million chance to join the one per cent overnight.

I wonder if the latest Mega Millionaire will follow the example of Calgarian Tom Crist, who won $40 million in the Lotto Max recently, then decided to give it all away to charity to commemorate his wife, who died of lung cancer two years ago.

Tom says he's already financially secure thanks to his successful business and he doesn't need the money. But I imagine it's not easy to give away 40 million bucks, never mind 600 zillion.

Tom's story is particularly compelling because this is the season of giving and he sets the bar pretty high. Even the post-ghost Ebenezer Scrooge looks like a piker in comparison.

For years now, my wife has been dutifully buying lottery tickets while I scoff and snort in a nearby dark corner. Just as dutifully, she lists all the people she will help when she wins $40 million or whatever. And as much as I ridicule the whole process as pointless, it's not long before I start worrying how we're going to afford the villa on the Riviera while fighting cancer and paying off the mortgages of various friends and relatives.

And then, I remember:

1.) It's her ticket. If I want the villa on the Riviera, I can buy my own ticket.

2.) The odds of winning Lotto Max aren't quite one in 259 million, but I'm more likely to be hit by lightning, and how many times has that happened, touch wood? So what am I going on about?

3.) Whatever happened to my generosity of spirit? It's pretty bad when I can't even imagine giving it away.

So thanks, Tom Crist. With the Spirit of Crist-mas present, you've inspired me to go out, buy a lottery ticket and think about giving it all away. If no one has claimed the Mega Millions prize after last night's draw, I may even head for the border and buy a ticket so I can imagine giving $600 zillion away. What joy! Of course, there's no chance I'll actually win anything, is there?

So don't get too excited out there…

ZOOM

Carnivore plant pic wins award

A picture of a meat-eating water plant has won this year's Olympus BioScapes International Digital Imaging Competition. Polish-born biologist Igor Siwanowicz's photo shows the inside of an open trap of aquatic carnivorous plant, the humped bladderwort (utricularia gibba), which digests micro invertebrates sucked into its trap. METRO

IGOR SIWANOWICZ/2013 OLYMPUS BIOSCAPES INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL IMAGING COMPETITION

Q and A

An underwater hunter

IGOR SIWANOWICZ
Biologist, 37, from Krakow, Poland, based in Ashburn, Va.

How does it catch its prey?
Antenna-like 'trigger hairs' guide an aquatic arthropod toward the trapdoor. Touching a hair causes the entrance to bulge inward. The plant's walls rapidly spring back to their initial position and the prey is sucked in within a millisecond!

It looks like a sort of bizarre, otherworldly vessel.
Yes, like an alien treasure stash! Honestly, if I tried I couldn't have planned this image to turn out this way. This photograph stands as a salute to nature's ingenuity.

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

It's a familiar refrain: an app debuts, gets popular and then gets banned from either the iTunes store or the Google Play store for violating our mobile overlords' terms of service. In the case of Apple, banning an app from iTunes effectively kills it (unless you're willing to jailbreak your phone), but Android's relative openness allows for side-loading apps. So, for all you Android users out there, here are some of the best of the banned:

CONTRIBUTED

Falcon Pro (getfalcon.pro):
Arguably one of the best Twitter clients for Android, Falcon Pro vanished from the Play store last summer. To be fair, it wasn't Google's doing, but rather Twitter's. The company's user limit for third-party clients — which some believe is an attempt to corral everyone into the official app — kiboshed Falcon for new users. Fortunately, you can still install the app, and a little Googling will show you how to circumvent Twitter's limit.

CyanogenMod (cyanogenmod.org):
CyanogenMod is a user-created alternative to stock Android. It's the most popular Android remix on the market, and allows users get the latest version of the OS if their manufacturer hasn't released an update. An easy-to-use installer for CyanogenMod was booted from the Play store in November but can still be found online. Be warned, as Google claims installing CyanogenMod can void your warranty.

Amazon Appstore (amazon.com/getappstore):
Google may not always be evil, but they do hate competition. Intended for Kindle users, the Amazon Appstore contains many of the same apps as the official Play store, and also offers regular sales and freebies. Fortunately, the app is still available via Amazon's website.

Comments

RE: The Vomit Face, The Dislike And The Nobody Cares: Facebook Buttons We'd 'Like', says Metro's Jessica Napier, published Dec. 17

@debbiepalm44: Twitter needs them too!

@luxembourg5: OK, the facebook buttons sound great, but enough already about trashing Rob Ford~~it gets boring.

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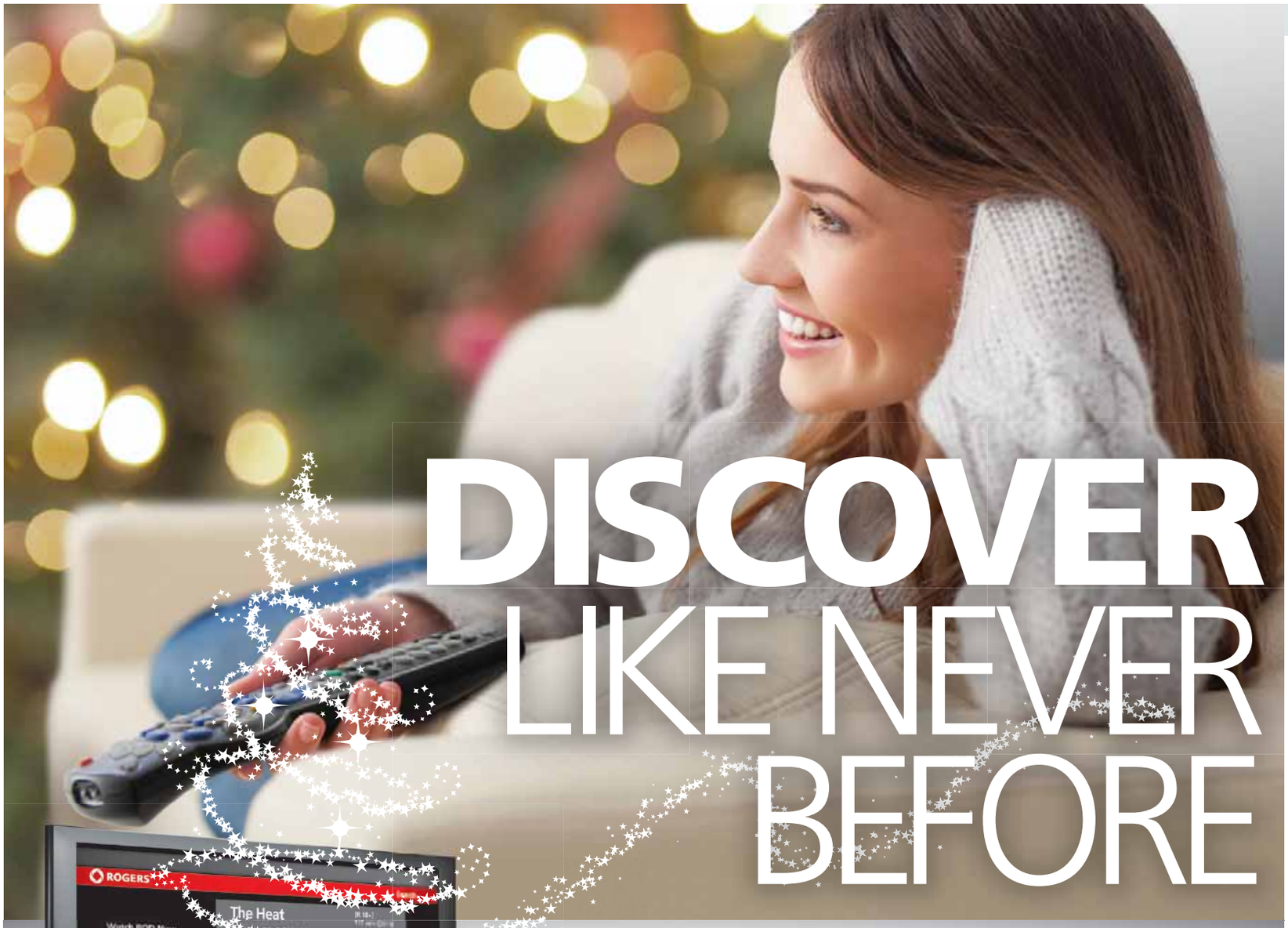

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Hollywood's in for the long con

American Hustle. Bale's latest role has him playing a con artist who helps the FBI, but with this genre, it's a con that's been seen before

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Amy Adams and Christian Bale star in American Hustle, which opens this weekend. HANDOUT

"You're a con artist," wrote Karina Halle in Sins & Needles. "A liar. A thief. An unredeemable soul."

She might also have added to that colourful list really interesting movie character.

As despicable as flim flam artists may be, there is no denying they make good film subjects.

This weekend in American Hustle, Christian Bale plays Irving Rosenfeld, a con man forced to help the FBI ensnare a group of corrupt politicians in the ABSCAM sting operation.

Although American Hustle director David O. Russell says his film is a fictionalized account of events, the ABSCAM operation was headline news in the early 1980s and Hollywood took notice.

In 1982 director Louis Malle was making plans for a May start date on an ABSCAM film called Moon Over Miami starring Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi. Belushi was to play Melvin Weinberg, based on the same man as Bale's character in American Hustle. The movie was scuttled following Belushi's death in March of that year.

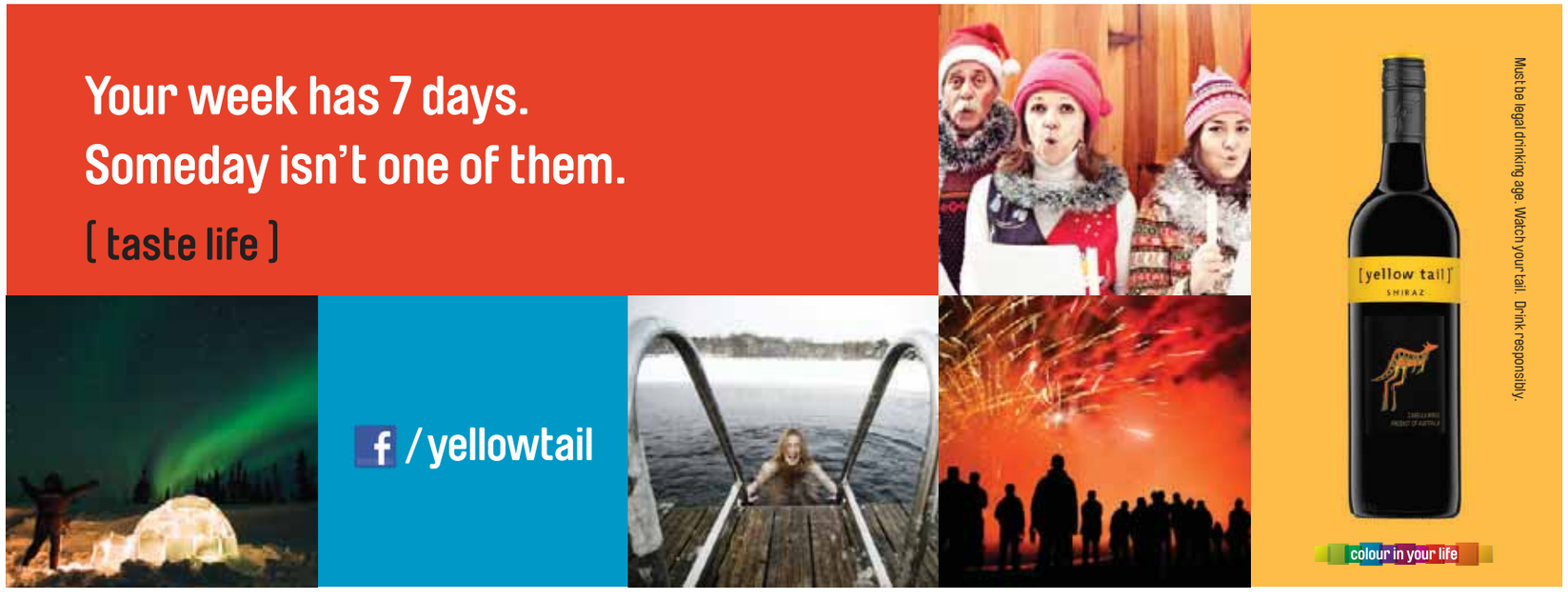
That con man film never saw the light of day, but many others have.

Everyone knows The Sting and The Grifters, but lesser seen is David Mamet's The Spanish Prisoner, a complicated story starring Campbell Scott as Joe Ross, a man who invents a process "to control the world market." Concerned that he will not be properly compensated for his work he contacts Jimmy Dell (Steve Martin), a wealthy businessman who offers to help. Little does Ross know that he has just stepped into a world of deception that will change his life.

Steve Martin's performance in The Spanish Prisoner was Oscar worthy, but it wasn't the first time he played a confidence man on film.

In the comedy Dirty Rotten Scoundrels he starred opposite Michael Caine as a scruffy con man trying to muscle in on some high end business on the French Riviera. Caine's suave grifter makes a bet with Martin. Whoever can con Soap Queen Janet Colgate (Glenne Headley) first will walk away with $50,000.

The movie was written for Mick Jagger and David Bowie who were looking to do a project together after the success of their Dancing in the Street video. The rock stars dropped out before cameras rolled — Bowie later said both were, "a bit tweezed that we lost out on a script that could have been reasonably good" — and replaced by Martin and Caine whose hilarious performances earned the movie a spot on Bravo's 100 Funniest Movies list.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TORONTO

Nirvana in spotlight with Hall of fame nod

Rock and Roll. In addition to the Teen Spirit superstars Kiss, Peter Gabriel, Hall and Oates, Linda Ronstadt and Cat Stevens join in

Nirvana, Kiss and Peter Gabriel will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame next year. The Rock Hall announced Tuesday that Hall and Oates, Linda Ronstadt and Cat Stevens also will be inducted April 10 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Artists are eligible for induction 25 years after their first release. Nirvana won a nomination in its first year of eligibility and next year the band will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its debut, Bleach. The induction comes 20 years after frontman Kurt Cobain committed suicide at age 27.

The remaining members of Nirvana will be inducted into the 2014 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on April 10. CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This year also marked first-time nominations for Hall and Oates, Gabriel and Ronstadt. Kiss and Stevens, who have been nominated in the past, made the cut after being absent from the list for several years.

N.W.A., one of the 16 nominees announced in October, did not make the list. The iconic rap group includes Dr. Dre, who is the producer behind Eminem, 50 Cent and Kendrick Lamar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Movie review

Stay classy Will Ferrell

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues

Stars. Will Ferrell, Steve Carell

Anchorman 2 may not be as classy (or as funny) as its 2004 progenitor but it's definitely more outrageous. For better or worse, star and co-writer Will Ferrell clearly had free rein with a foolish fable of the hapless broadcaster taking on the televised origin of 24-hour news. Ferrell and his star-studded cast will surely earn laughs — even if the sequel falls short of the original's cohesion.

STEVE GOW/METRO

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Oscar Isaac embraces rising-star status since making Inside Llewyn Davis

'I knew I could play Llewyn.' Young up-and-comer earned his stripes in new Coen brothers flick

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

In the new Coen brothers film, Inside Llewyn Davis, Golden Globe nominee Oscar Isaac works opposite an all-star cast. From Justin Timberlake to Carey Mulligan and John Goodman, there's no shortage of star power on the marquee.

There was one co-star, however, he wasn't looking forward to working with. In fact, he described working with a red Mackerel cat named Ulysses as "daunting."

"I'm not afraid of cats," he says. "But a cat put me in the hospital once. It bit me. Ninety percent of cat bites are highly infectious. The next morning I woke up with a red line going up my arm. It had gotten into my lymphatic system. I had to go to the hospital and I was there for two days. That was six years ago.

"Then you cut to the Coens and they're like, 'We've got five cats and we're going to attach them to you and you're going to run as fast as you can.' It was daunting."

The 33-year-old actor plays a broody folk singer in 1961 Greenwich Village. To pull off the role he had to perform many songs live on film, an experience he describes as "so incredibly joyful I have no way of communicating it."

"I knew I could play Llewyn. I knew what was required, which was playing these amazing, beautiful, old folk songs that have been passed down. So the songs are great. I'm working with [executive music producer] T-Bone [Burnett] and he's going to tell me if I am sounding false and is building my confidence throughout and Joel and Ethan [Coen] are filming it so in a way, you'd have to try really hard to f— that up."

Oscar Isaac stars as 1960's folk singer Llewyn Davis in Inside Llewyn Davis. CONTRIBUTED

Inside Llewyn Davis is garnering attention for the young actor. Recently he was on the Today show when his name was announced as a Best Actor Golden Globe nominee.

"After the segment was over I went downstairs," he says. "Then my name came out and I was immediately escorted up the steps to get back on, in front of the cameras to get a reaction before I even had a moment to possibly formulate what I would say about it. It's such a huge thing. I'm still trying to wrap my mind around the fact that I was even cast in this movie."

The Rookie

This is the first leading role for Isaac.

- **He previously had smaller parts in Sucker Punch, Drive and W.E.**

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Even Elementary's Jon Michael Hill doesn't have a clue about next season

What a mystery. Actor says he never knows what's in store for Detective Marcus Bell

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News in London

Elementary fans who are sleuthing for clues about the next season will be just as surprised as actor Jon Michael Hill when all the twists and turns are revealed.

Hill, who plays Detective Marcus Bell in the Sherlock Holmes-inspired series, admitted that he doesn't call up the writers in order to find out what's next for his character and his cohorts.

"It's been, you know, difficult not to have more information, but that just means you get to use your imagination more, which is what I love to do," he explained.

The actor said that he didn't know anything about the famed detective before signing on to the series either. After meeting with show creator Robert Doherty, he went out and bought an anthology of all the Sherlock Holmes stories and was instantly hooked.

"I was very surprised at how wild his character really is and it's great to see the kind of, you know, the little things that Jonny (Lee Miller, who plays Sherlock) picks up and tries to use and the spin they put on the addiction angle of it," he said.

That doesn't mean that Hill doesn't have any suggestions for where his character's storyline should go. For one thing, he wants them to bring back his incarcerated brother, Andre Bell. He'd also like to learn more about his character's mother.

Jon Michael Hill, far right, plays Detective Marcus Bell in the series Elementary. CONTRIBUTED

But, one thing he isn't clamouring for is another love interest.

"I don't really care, they can do what they want with that," he said. "The last girlfriend they gave me, the ex ended up trying to kill me!"

Though Hill had training on how to portray a detective after playing Detective Damon Washington in Detroit 1-8-7, he said Bell is a completely different character. He had fun playing the family man Washington, but he admits that the situations Hill gets into because of Sherlock and Watson are more interesting in general.

He still works with the cops who act as technical advisors on set to make sure the show is true to life to get inspiration for his character.

"They're always really cool and they've got stories for days," he explained. "It's really crazy, and they kind of take pride in having the stories that they think might make you squirm."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Lil Wayne isn't dead, but the Internet is ready if he is

THE WORD
MELINDA TAUB
scene@metronews.ca

At this point, Lil Wayne is basically a superhero, given how many times he's come back from the dead.

Yet another Lil Wayne death rumour was making the rounds on Facebook Tuesday. RIP Rapper Lil Wayne Found Dead, the video reads, before prompting the user to share it before viewing. Not to worry, though — the rapper is alive and well.

It's not clear where this latest rumour springs from (the Inquisitr speculates it could be a Facebook data harvesting scam, since you have to share the video to view it), but it's far from the first time death rumours have swirled around the rapper. The most credible was this summer, when he was hospitalized for seizures and TMZ reported that he was on his deathbed. However, he recovered.

Why is Lil Wayne such a frequent target of death rumours? Maybe because his real health problems make them quasi-credible. The rapper is epileptic, which is what landed him in the hospital this summer.

"It got real bad because I got three (seizures) in a row, and on the third one my heart rate went down to, like, 30 per cent," he said in a radio interview with Power 106. "Basically, I could've died soon. That's why it was so serious."

I guess he can take some comfort in knowing that if (God forbid) anything ever does happen to him, the Internet has a bunch of In Memoriam videos all ready to go.

Dylan Sprouse

Disney star lays out the bare truth on his pictures

Now that former Disney child star Dylan Sprouse has had time to think about his nude photo leak, he wants everyone to calm down.

"The reason I'm making light of the situation is because I don't think what I did was wrong," the 21-year-old writes on his Tumblr page.

"I was proud of my progress in the gym, thought I looked hot and wanted to share it."

He just didn't mean to share it with the actual recipient of the photos.

"The real problem here was not me sending my pictures to someone, but rather sending them to the wrong someone," Sprouse writes.

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Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!
If all this white stuff make visions of mogul bumps dance in your head, here are a few exciting developments you should know about for the 2013-2014 ski season.

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

5 Perks for powder hounds

Rossland's Red Mountain

Just in time for the 2013/2014 ski season, Red Mountain Resort in Rossland, British Columbia has completed the largest expansion of any ski resort in North America in more than four decades. The development of Grey Mountain means an additional 1,000 acres of mostly intermediate terrain to the existing resort. Part of BC's renowned Powder Highway, Red is a two and a half hour drive from Spokane, Washington and three hours from Kelowna.

Cat tracks and snowshoes

Alberta's Fortress Mountain was closed as a ski resort in 2006. Over the last three years, KPOW (Kananaskis Powder) skiing at Fortress Mountain has brought a cat skiing operation back to sections of the mountain. Ski leaders will tour and teach anyone wanting to take advantage of the eight to 11 metres of annual snowfall. New this year, KPOW is partnering with White Mountain Adventures to offer snowshoeing at Fortress Mountain.

Brand new trails at Blue!

Ontario's premier ski resort, Blue Mountain, has added an additional 64 acres with its Orchard Expansion, which includes six new trails and the latest high-speed chairlift system to get you there. Their lift rate specials are on designated weeks from January to March, but for those spontaneous, flexible souls, Blue Mountain offers a last-minute Hot Deals club that includes the full gamut of accommodations.

Happy 75th Tremblant!

Quebec's Mont Tremblant is turning 75 this year. As part of the anniversary celebrations, the resort has invested $5 million into The Westin Resort & Spa Tremblant and renovated a number of boutiques and restaurants in the resorts' charming village. The mountain is featuring a long lineup of events throughout the winter including its traditional New Year's Eve party, the official 75th anniversary spring celebrations, the must-attend Caribou Cup, and a new Red Bull signature event that extends over four weekends from March 29 to April 19.

Ski — then stay at La Ferme

If you are planning to hit the slopes of Le Massif de Charlevoix this winter, avoid the 45 minute commute back and forth between Quebec City and stay at the Hôtel La Ferme. Constructed out of an old dairy farm in the middle of a field in Baie-Saint- Paul, this charming hotel is connecting by rail to the ski hills. From the hotel's lobby, skiers can walk into the train station, choose a take-out lunch, hop on the rail shuttle with their skis and get off right at the foot of trails.

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Welcome to another kind of Santa that has lots of gifts to give

Santa Barbara.
California dreamin' starts here with beaches and wine

JIM BYERS
@jimbyerstravel
jimbyerstravel.com

Romantic Spanish architecture. A craggy mountain range. Luscious wineries and incredible local food. And a fabulous beach that's bathed in sunshine almost year-round.

There's a reason that folks like Oprah Winfrey and the late Ronald Reagan set up homes in the area. There's only one highway in town, and traffic is manageable at the worst of times. But you've got southern California weather and southern California beaches and a stunning Spanish mission rising in the hills above town and one of California's prettiest ocean piers, all of it an easy two-hour drive from the freeway madness of Los Angeles.

Doing

The Santa Barbara mission on Laguna Street might be the prettiest of the Spanish missions that dot the state of California. The Santa Barbara courthouse has Moorish influences and fabulous views of the city's famed red-tiled roofs if you go up the tower. Relax, there's an elevator. There's great shopping up and down State Street and you can get a trolley to take you and up down the road for just 50 cents. So leave your car at your hotel. Wander down to Stearns Wharf and admire the ocean views, or take the Lil' Toot ferry boat on a short ride to the nearby boat harbour. DeeTours of Santa Barbara, run by Sandy Glendinning, offers great city or wine tours.

Sleeping

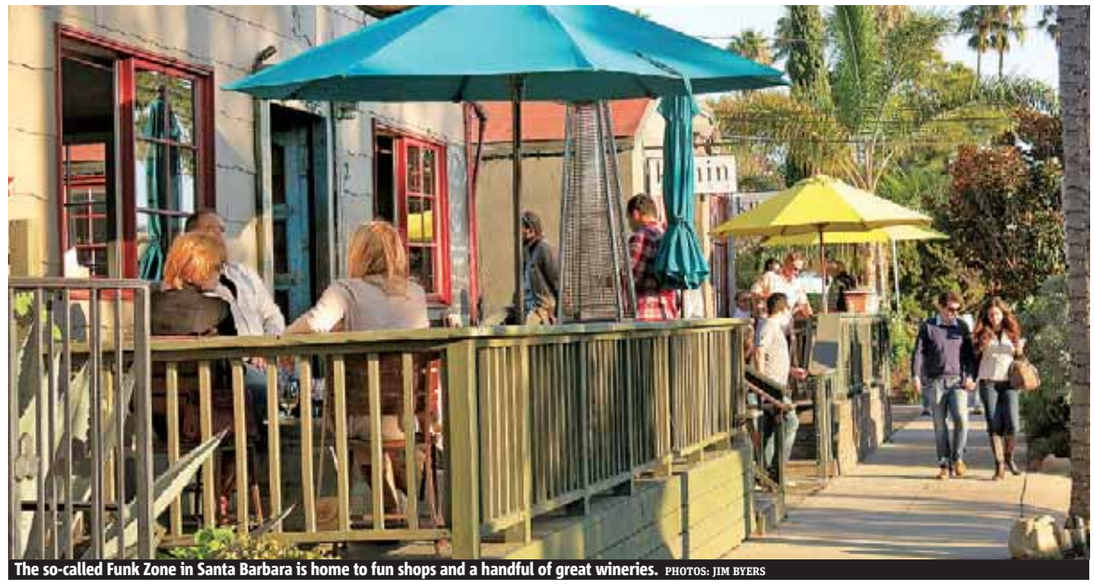
The Harbor View Inn is a casual but nicely designed property with good-sized rooms. It's directly across the street from the beach and from Stearns Wharf. Terrific wine-tasting rooms and restaurants are also a block away. The Four Seasons Biltmore is a beautifully landscaped property on the beach, just south of downtown. They have more than 2,000 varieties of plants, everything from giant yellow hyacinths and birds of paradise to giant fig trees planted around winding paths with romantic gas lanterns. Expensive, but you'll impress the pants off your significant other.

Dining

Bouchon is an intimate restaurant on Victoria Street with stunning southern California-Mediterranean fare such as sea bass with risotto and duck on a base of corn, fava beans, smoked bacon and squash. Great wait staff and a super friendly owner. Carlitos on State Street is a great Mexican place with a pretty patio that's just made for margarita tasting. Chuck's Waterfront Grill/The Endless Summer Bar-Café has fabulous views of the harbour and the mountains. They have a nice patio and also a casual bar upstairs. Napkins and menus feature the colourful logo from the classic surf movie The Endless Summer as director Bruce Brown lives in the area. Good fish tacos.

Drinking

One of the great features of Santa Barbara are the wine tasting rooms right downtown, which means you can leave your car at the hotel and sip and spit (yeah, right) to your heart's delight. This part of California is famous for its Pinot Noir (remember Miles in the movie Sideways?), as well as deeper reds like Syrah. There's also good Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay. Municipal Winemakers has a tasting room that looks like an industrial warehouse, while Santa Barbara Winery has cute wine gear and olive oil tasting and such treats as Chocolate Zinfandel sauce.



The so-called Funk Zone in Santa Barbara is home to fun shops and a handful of great wineries. PHOTOS: JIM BYERS

The harbour in Santa Barbara is one of the prettiest in California.

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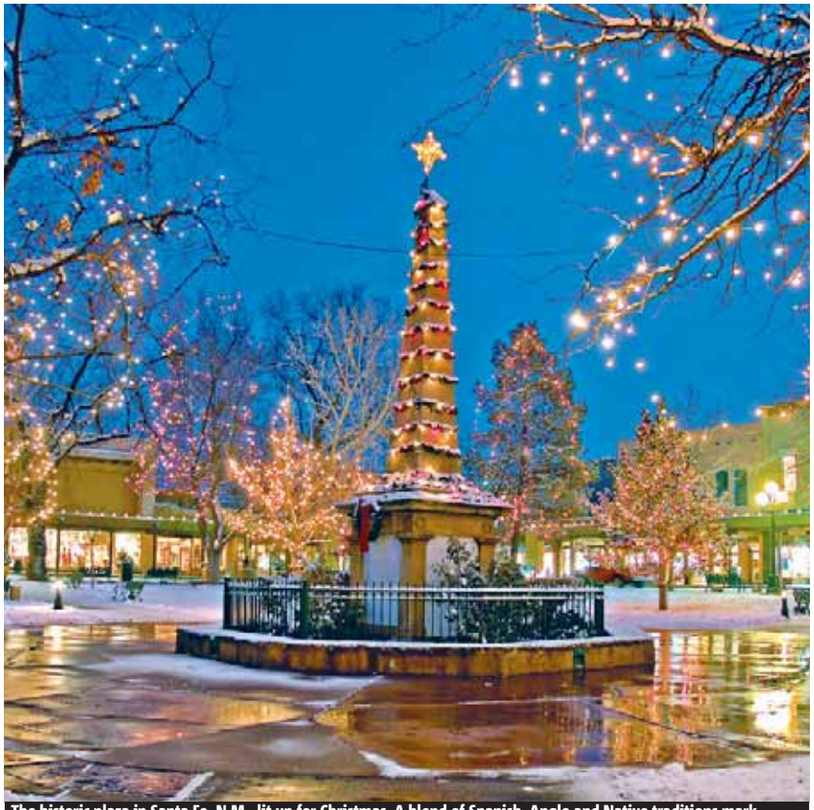

The historic plaza in Santa Fe, N.M., lit up for Christmas. A blend of Spanish, Anglo and Native traditions mark the holiday season in New Mexico. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Mexico mixes up holiday celebrations

Festive twist. The state's cultural mix makes for some unique seasonal events

No matter when you visit New Mexico, the state's cultural mix is part of the appeal. Spanish colonial history, Native traditions and Anglo and Mexican influences are seen year-round in everything from architecture to food. But the Christmas season offers additional ways to experience this unique heritage.

Hallmarks of the holiday include the luminaria and farolito traditions. These candles, usually placed in paper bags weighted with sand, look like lanterns and are carried in nighttime processions or lined up along streets, driveways or rooftops to create a display. Luminaria can also refer to a bonfire, while the term farolito is more likely to be heard in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico than in Albuquerque.

And while fir, balsam and pine perfume the air at Christmas in other parts of the country, here it's the scent of burning juniper and pinon.

Many places in New Mexico host annual events Christmas Eve and Christmas Day centred around the luminaria tradition. The main plazas of both Albuquerque and Santa Fe are decorated with thousands of luminarias.

Albuquerque offers walking tours of luminaria displays on Christmas Eve while Santa Fe hosts a procession called Las Posadas, which tells the story of Jesus. Spectators gather with candles in the city's historic plaza to watch the parade, which is followed by a Christmas at the Palace event at Santa Fe's Palace of the Governors. This event includes Hispanic, Anglo and Native traditions, from caroling to Native dances to an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Midnight Christmas Mass is held at the nearby Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.

In Santa Fe's Canyon Road area, known for art galleries and studios, there's also a farolito walk on Christmas Eve, with businesses around the neighbourhood offering hot cider, hot chocolate and posole, a hearty soup that's traditional around Christmas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Also in Albuquerque

The River of Lights runs through Dec. 19 at the BioPark Zoo and Botanic Gardens, with a walk-through lighting display and entertainment.

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Save the jammin' for Jamaica, not your suitcase and carry on

Packing. Keep it light, wrinkle resistant and wear — don't carry — your heaviest shoes

JULIA FURLAN
Metro World News in New York

Packing has to be more than just jamming a bunch of wrinkled clothes into an old duffel bag. As prices for checked bags creep upward (it can cost anywhere between $25 to $175 if your suitcase is overweight), knowing how to get where you're going with as little bulk as possible is vital to making your trip a good one.

Donna Smallin Kuper knows a thing or two about tight spaces (and organizational wizardry). She's the author of The One Minute Organizer, and a recent convert to the nomadic tribe of RV enthusiasts (she's gone cross-country and has plans for several stops in 2014.) Kuper says that wrinkles must be out of the question when space is tight. "I don't own an iron anymore," she admits, adding that all of the outfits she packed into her RV were wrinkle-resistant. "When you're selecting outfits, think about what can you roll up and then unroll with virtually no wrinkles," she suggests.

If you can't avoid bringing a blazer or a dress shirt that may wrinkle while packed in a suitcase, Kuper's solution is to use the plastic from the dry cleaner's to line the inside and outside of the piece of clothing. "What happens is that the plastic bag helps prevent it from creasing," she says. "The fabric rolls around the plastic so it's good enough so that you can get where you're going and immediately hang those items and you'll be fine."

When it comes to a love of shoes, Kuper says to start with weight and go from there. "I usually wear my heaviest shoes. If I plan to bring boots, I'm going to wear them on my travel days because they take up so much room," she says.

Other tips

- Always travel with a few plastic bags to transport muddy/wet clothes back home.
- Choose a colour scheme for your outfits. "That way everything you bring can mix and match and you don't need as many things.

Patrick Smith's love of travel extends beyond his job as a pilot. He's been to more than 80 countries worldwide and recently authored a book, Ask the Pilot, based on his blog of the same name. Smith approaches travel with a perspective that's inspiring to anyone who has wrestled with increased security, baggage fees and long lines: "Airplanes are more than just a means to an end, it's a part of the journey," he says, acknowledging that this carefree attitude is a harder sell now that flying can be a bummer.

Smith has love for the small, neat roller bag he brings with him — and inside is evidence of his black-belt packing experience. He says he has packing down to an art, getting ready for a 10 day, multi-country trip in 25 minutes. His advice starts with the gadgets that ultimately rule our lives: chargers, USB cables, headphones and the like. "I did an inventory on all the stuff that I carry with me now that I didn't carry with me 10 years ago and it's startling," he says. "These things are supposed to make life easier, but they make packing difficult."

Smith suggests keeping all of the technological amenities in one pouch, and to buy a second version of any tech accessories so that you can have one pouch with everything ready to go.

Choose outfits wisely so you're not cramming your clothes. ISTOCK

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Chestnuts roasting on an open fire? They'd be happier in these truffles

Who doesn't love chocolate truffles? They are the essence of chocolate, and a sure-fire mood enhancer. Pop even one into your mouth and see if you don't get happy.

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the chestnuts and water. Bring to boil, then reduce the heat to maintain a simmer, cover and cook until the chestnuts are very tender and all the water has been absorbed, about 30 minutes.

2. Add the milk and heat the mixture until it just comes to a simmer. Remove the pan from the heat, add the chocolate, then recover the pan. Let stand off the burner until the chocolate is melted, about 3 to 4 minutes. Stir and transfer to a blender along with the espresso powder, salt, corn syrup and liquor. Blend until very smooth.

3. Transfer to a bowl, cover tightly with plastic wrap and chill until very firm, at least 3 hours. Form the mixture into small balls (about 2 tsp each) and roll the balls in the cocoa powder until they are coated, shaking off the excess. Chill until ready to serve. Will keep, refrigerated, for 2 weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS

Ingredients

- 5.2-oz pkg roasted and peeled chestnuts, medium chopped
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/3 cup low-fat evaporated milk
- 4 oz bittersweet chocolate, medium chopped
- 1 tsp instant espresso powder or 1 tbsp instant coffee
- Pinch of table salt
- 2 tbsp light corn syrup
- 2 tsp Tia Maria, Kahlua, Baileys, brandy or rum
- 1 tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder

Spiked Mocha Chestnut Truffles

This recipe makes 20 truffles. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Peppermint Sapphire Splash

- 1 and 1/2 oz Bombay Sapphire
- 1/2 oz Martini Bianco
- 1 and 1/2 oz white cranberry juice
- 1/2 oz peppermint liqueur
- Frozen cranberries

Add all liquid ingredients into a shaker. Add ice and shake hard. Strain mixture into a cocktail glass leaving the ice chips in the glass. Garnish with frozen cranberries.

JEAN-SÉBASTIEN DUPUIS/BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

If you're craving coconut, just drop and roll

No-Bake Cranberry Bites

This recipe makes three and a half dozen cookies. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 14-oz can sweetened condensed milk
- 4 cups shredded coconut, preferably unsweetened
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- Pinch salt
- 1 cup chopped dried cranberries
- 1 cup toasted shredded coconut, finely chopped nuts or coloured sugar

For anyone who loves macaroons, these chewy, cranberry-speckled no-bake cookies should help you satisfy your coconut cravings.

Feel free to decorate these cookies however you like. We prefer to roll them in yet more shredded coconut (toasted is a nice touch), but you also could roll them in chopped pistachios, peanuts, hazelnuts, even pine nuts would be delicious. Or get coloured decorating sugar from the baking supply shop and roll them in that.

1. In a large skillet over medium heat, combine the sweetened condensed milk, 4 cups of shredded coconut, the water, brown sugar, cinnamon, cloves and salt. Cook, stirring constantly, until it forms a thick paste, about 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in the cranberries, then set aside off the heat and allow to cool completely.

2. Once the mixture has cooled, set out a bowl of toasted coconut, finely chopped nuts or coloured sugar. Form the mixture into 1-inch balls, then roll each ball in the coating of your choice.

3. The cookies should be stored in an airtight container between layers of kitchen parchment or waxed paper.

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COMING SOON

So you're home for the holidays?

Make the best of your break. The weather outside may be frightful, but you've got a sweet space of time off and you're advised to take advantage

OLIVIA HOSKIN
TalentEgg.ca

While some people are lucky enough to have minimal exams and get a full 3-4 weeks off of school, others will have a full exam schedule, but we all still wind up with at least two weeks of winter break.

If you don't have any concrete family/friend vacations planned, remember these simple ways to ensure you make the most out of your winter break:

Rest and relaxation

First and foremost, get some beauty sleep. Chances are you have bags under your eyes from last minute cramming and/or travelling back home. Get some quality Zzzs so you're ready to start your holiday routine and aren't acting like you just had some bad eggnog.

Remember your routine

Spend time catching up with friends and family but ultimately, if you've got a regular plan, stick to it.

Although New Years is when people usually make most of their "resolutions" or new routines for the coming year, if you already have a fitness regimen or regular schedule, be sure to work that into your days at home. Most people expect to gain a little holiday weight but if it can be avoided by sticking to a plan you already follow regularly, you'd be crazy not to do it.

Save your money

Parents, siblings and friends understand what it's like to be a broke student; for most of them, it's a "been there, done that" situation. Here are some ways to make the most of your (probably) dwindling cash supply:

Pull up the sheets

Get some quality Zzzs so you're ready to start your holiday routine and aren't acting like you just had some bad eggnog.

Olivia Hoskin
TalentEgg.ca

- Save money travelling home by checking out student discounts on rental cars, train or bus rides and even some airfare. Most schools have negotiated deals with various transportation companies and get discounts on top of their usual deals for their students.

Alternatively, carpooling has always been a sure-fire way to save time, energy and money.

- Don't go big on social gatherings by trading extravagant dining for lots of coffee dates. Even at Starbucks, a big cup of coffee should never run you more than $3.00. Skip the social lunches and brunches that often rack up an unexpectedly large tab, and invite your friends out for a cup of java instead. Your body is probably used to all the caffeine from late night cram sessions anyway. This way, you get a warm and inviting environment to chat and catch up, plus a warm beverage, minus the huge bill!

- Use Netflix for movie nights. Instead of spending $20+ on movies and snacks, get a Netflix account (chances are one of your friends has one) and have everyone bring a variety of snacks. After all, that's what your parents' basements are for, right?

- As for the gift-giving, a Secret Santa amongst groups

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Relax and reap the benefits of time

of friends is usually the best way to save money. Put a spending cap on the present and everyone in the group gets one nice, personal present instead of scraping together change to buy tiny gifts for a bunch of people.

Find a summer job

Summer positions are certainly filled quickly and the cut-off for most jobs is mid-January to early February, but the earlier you start looking, the more options you'll have.

Schedule a day or two, or 1-2 hours per day if you prefer spreading it out, for job hunting and sending out resumes and cover letters. Be sure to put some thought into this process and only apply to jobs you really want — your enthusiasm will translate into your application.

What if the company you want to work for has no information on internships or summer positions? Give them a call! Reaching out to a company and displayed an interest in the business is a great way to find a hidden opportunity. You'll never know the jobs you can get if you don't ask about them.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Have a great time

Winter break is called a "break" for a reason.

- It gives your brain time off of the busy scholastic life and gives you a breather until the next semester begins. Make sure you take advantage of this and have some time to yourself.
- Sure, holiday shopping and all the celebrations can be stressful, but certainly make time for yourself to get some R&R before you wind up in the library again.

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1 or 2 adults*

* 20 years of age or older.
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For more information, go to www.ttc.ca.

If you need some inspiration to get ahead, look to the big man in red

Is Santa the employee of the century? He checks his lists twice, he's got the nice thing down, what more can you ask for in a worker?

LEAH RUEHLICKE
TalentEgg.ca

If you're planning on spending some of your holiday downtime on your job search, use the big man himself as someone to model your employable self after.

Not only has he been extremely successful in his career, but he consistently demonstrates a solid work ethic and embodies the qualities of an admirable worker.

Take a look at the top reasons Santa continues to excel year after year and stands strong as a model employee:

He achieves the impossible

He might be a large man, but he still manages to squeeze down even the tightest of chimneys.

What's your version of impossible? Changing industries, going back to school, getting a position that's outside of your experience?

Have a goal, put your mind to it, and you too can fit in places you never thought possible.

He has a can-do attitude

The whole 'getting around the entire world in one night' detail has stumped the public for centuries — to the point where people use this as the sole reason to stop believing in Santa Claus.

I know, I know.

Think you have too much on your plate? Have people telling you you're underqualified and not skilled enough for what you want to do? You can do anything you set your mind to — just ask Santa.

He asks for what he needs

Santa has one of the busiest jobs around. He has billions of people relying on him to gear up and deliver — literally.

He knows he can do it, but he also knows he might need a little help along the way.

Santa has no shame in asking for some milk and cookies to give him the energy he needs to power through.

If you feel like you don't have all the tools or training you need to most effectively do your job, speak up!

Your boss wants you to be productive — and if there's something you need help with in order to do just that, they should know about it.

He gives back

Santa never steals the spotlight, constantly paying recognition to his hardworking elves and reindeer: two very important pieces in the holiday puzzle. Santa couldn't be Santa without a team and he knows that.

Santa also engages. Write him a letter and he will write back!

As we all know, so much of the job market nowadays is dependent on our social channels. Employers will look you up (or engage with you) on LinkedIn, Twitter and beyond. You want to make sure you're doing it right.

Don't make it all about you.

Don't endlessly push your own content without commenting or engaging with other posts as well. Share the spotlight and celebrate people who have helped you get to where you are.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Sure it looks like a lot to take on, but Santa's got a can-do attitude when it comes to all tasks, and so should you. ISTOCK

He follows the dress code

He follows the dress code

- It's easy to get too comfortable at a place of employment, or reach that point where you've been there long enough that you start trying to get away with more and more.
- Santa has been doing the same job for what likely feels like forever, yet his outfit never disappoints. After hundreds of years delivering toys across the globe, he still shows up in a suit. Every. Single. Year.
- Think like Santa and you too can ho-ho-hold your head high as a model employee.

What do you know about your office acquittance, if anything, that might help in your holiday hunt.
ISTOCK

Gifts for those you're still getting to know

This one's for you, stranger. What do you buy for the distant colleague whose name you picked out of a hat?

Along with icy sidewalks and stale fruitcake, buying a gift for the person you had to secretly pick at the office is just one more hazard of the holiday season. So if you've got a Secret Santa emergency on your hands, here are some creative gift ideas from the Canadian bargain hunting website RedFlagDeals.com:

Office temp
This is often code for "overworked" or "underpaid." Skip the gag gifts and get something fun and enjoyable like movie passes or a mall gift card.

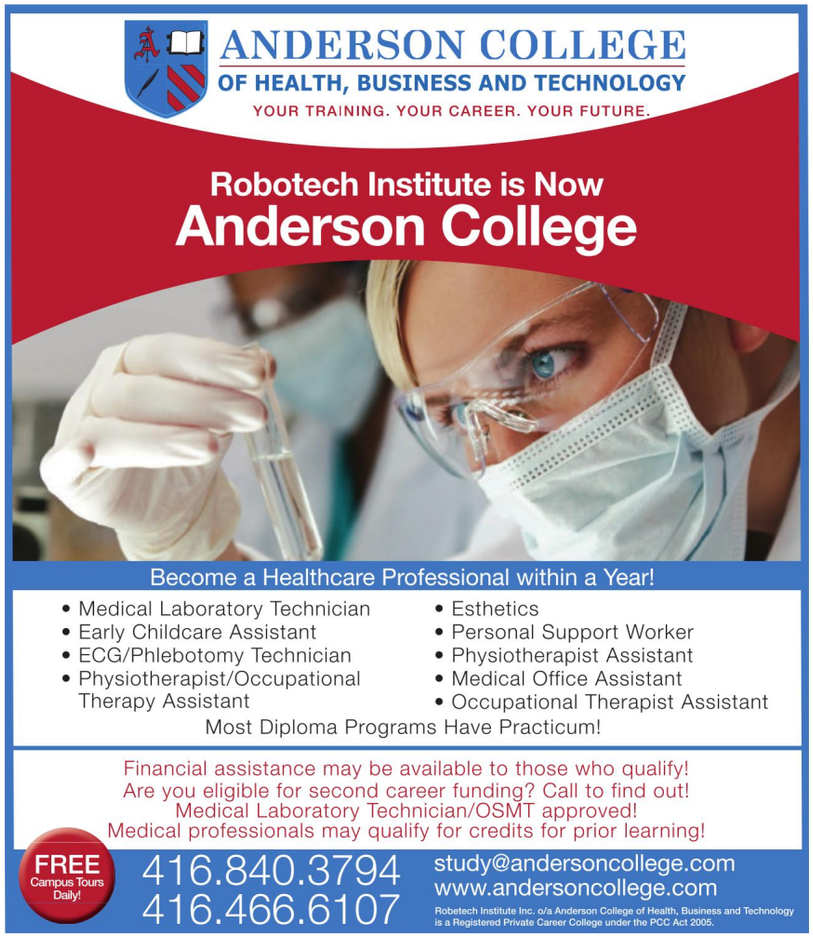
New person
It's hard to buy for someone if you barely know their name, so start by getting to know them. If they're always drinking coffee, put together a nice mug and a coffee shop gift certificate for the ultimate gift.

Receptionist
Skip the office supplies. Instead, treat them to a deluxe gift basket, a small spa package or a good book.

IT/help desk
Treat the people who fix your computer well. Something like a gift certificate to their favourite restaurant will work. If you want to be a bit more creative, observe what they decorate their desk with and get them something that fits in.

Executive
Giving a present to your boss or their boss can be awkward. Choose a meaningful gift instead of something fancy or expensive. Fun gifts like a framed photo from a work event or something to share, like gourmet cookies, are a safe bet.

NEWS CANADA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TFC add Morrow in back-field shakeup

MLS. U.S. defender an 'all-star calibre player' Bezbatchenko says

After making moves to bolster its attack and midfield, Toronto FC has turned its attention to the backline by acquiring American defender Justin Morrow from the San Jose Earthquakes in exchange for allocation money.

In four years with the Quakes, Morrow has played in 71 regular-season games and two playoff games with 65 starts. Only Toronto midfielder Jeremy Hall (114) has played more MLS games.

"In Morrow, we are adding a young, all-star calibre player to our back line," Toronto general manager Tim Bezbatchenko said in a release Tuesday. "Justin's steady presence, versatility and MLS experience make him a great addition to the club."

The move beefs up the Toronto backline with the 26-year-old Morrow able to play both fullback and centre-back.

Toronto's defence yielded 47 goals in 2013. That was down from 62 in 2012 but still ranked 14th in the 19-team league.

Toronto unveiled Brazilian striker Gilberto last Friday, its newest designated player. Jermain Defoe is expected to join him in the January transfer window in a megabucks deal that will make the Spurs and England forward the face of the Toronto franchise.

While club officials have not confirmed the signing of Defoe, privately they see it as a done deal. The firing of Tottenham manager Andre Villas-Boas could be a complication.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto FC's latest addition, Justin Morrow. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Big Smoke ambassador

Report: Drake sold Defoe on T.O.

A phone call from hip-hop star Drake helped sell England and Spurs striker Jermain Defoe on Toronto FC, according to England's Daily Mirror.

The tabloid reports Defoe was "bowled over" by the call from Drake, who was unveiled in September as the Toronto Raptors' "global ambassador."

The Mirror says the 31-year-old Defoe has been offered a deal worth over $155,000 a week as well as unlimited flights for him and his family.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Panthers pluck a win from Leafs at ACC

Maple Leafs forward Joffrey Lupul gets taken down by Panthers defenceman Brian Campbell on Tuesday night at Air Canada Centre. James Reimer let in goals from Florida's Tomas Fleischmann, Sean Bergenheim and Brad Boyes on 23 shots and the Leafs lost 3-1. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hug it out. Ronaldo fan cleared of charges in Fla.

Prosecutors in South Florida have dropped charges against an excited Canadian fan who got onto the field and hugged Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo during an August match.

The Miami-Dade state attorney's office announced Monday it would not prosecute 20-year-old Ronald Gjoka, an Albanian-born Canadian citizen, for trespassing at Real Madrid's game against Chelsea on Aug. 7. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cristiano Ronaldo GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Yankees add 2B Roberts and LHP Thornton, source says

Making a pair of thrifty deals to fill holes on their roster, the New York Yankees agreed to a $2 million, one-year deal with second baseman Brian Roberts and a $7 million, two-year deal with lefty Matt Thornton a person familiar with the agreements told The Associated Press Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sochi 2014. Obama picks gay athletes for delegation

President Barack Obama sent Russia a clear message about its treatment of gays and lesbians with who he is — and isn't — sending to represent the United States at the Sochi Olympics.

Tennis champion Billie Jean King will join the U.S. delegation at the opening ceremony, while Caitlin Cahow, a hockey player and Olympic medallist, will be at the closing ceremony. For the first time since 2000, the U.S. will not send a president, former president, first lady or vice-president to the Games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"He knows they will showcase to the world the best of America."

White House spokesman Shin Inouye on U.S. President Barack Obama's delegation selection for February's Winter Olympics.

Dineen named Canadian women's head coach

Hockey Canada announced Kevin Dineen as the new head coach of the national women's team in Calgary on Tuesday. LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hockey. Former NHL bench boss takes over for resigned Church

With less than two months to go until the Sochi Olympics, Kevin Dineen will have to hit the ground running as the new head coach of the Canadian women's hockey team.

Dineen was named to the post Tuesday, just a few days after Dan Church's surprise resignation. Dineen was signed for the remainder of the season and will guide the defending champions at the Feb. 7-23 Winter Games.

"This has been a whirlwind few days, but when this opportunity presented itself I immediately jumped at it," Dineen said at a news conference.

It's the first international coaching job for Dineen, who served as head coach of the NHL's Florida Panthers for parts of three seasons until he was fired last month. He previously served as head coach of the AHL's Portland Pirates for six seasons (2005-11).

"We're very excited that Kevin will join the coaching staff of Canada's national women's team and bring his unique perspective to the dressing room," Hockey Canada chief operating officer Scott Smith said in a statement. "Kevin has had success in both the AHL and NHL, and we're looking forward to him being a part of the staff for the final push towards Sochi."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Up next

Canada lost 5-1 to the archrival United States in an exhibition game last Thursday in Calgary. The two women's hockey powers meet again Friday in an exhibition game in Grand Forks, N.D.

Luge. Canada names team tasked with ending drought

Alex Gough THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World Championship and World Cup medallist Alex Gough and two-time Olympian Sam Edney will lead a promising Canadian luge team into the Sochi Games with the goal of bringing home the country's first Olympic medal in the sport.

The Canadian Luge Association officially named seven athletes to the 2014 Olympic team Tuesday. Edney leads teenagers John Fennell and Mitchel Malyk into their first Games in men's singles. Tristan Walker and Justin Snith will represent Canada in doubles, while Gough will be joined by Kimberley McRae in women's singles. Arianne Jones and Jordan Smith will race off in Calgary on Wednesday and Thursday for the final women's spot.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snowboarding

White expects to return on weekend

Shaun White's balky left ankle apparently isn't going to keep the two-time Olympic gold medallist out of this weekend's World Cup event in Colorado.

White posted a picture of a halfpipe on his Facebook page on Tuesday. The picture included a message that read, "I am in the building" as an introduction.

White tweaked the ankle during his first run in the halfpipe finals of an event in Breckinridge, Colo., on Saturday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	33	22	9	2	92	70	46
Montreal	35	20	12	3	88	75	43
Tampa Bay	33	19	11	3	90	80	41
Detroit	35	15	11	9	89	94	39
Toronto	35	17	15	3	98	102	37
Ottawa	35	14	15	6	99	113	34
Florida	34	12	17	5	78	109	29
Buffalo	33	7	23	3	55	96	17

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	35	24	10	1	108	75	49
Washington	33	18	12	3	105	97	39
Carolina	34	14	13	7	79	94	35
NY Rangers	34	16	17	1	76	91	33
Philadelphia	33	14	15	4	76	91	32
New Jersey	34	13	15	6	78	85	32
Columbus	34	14	16	4	87	95	32
NY Islanders	34	9	19	6	83	118	24

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	36	24	7	5	135	101	53
St. Louis	32	22	6	4	112	76	48
Colorado	32	22	9	1	94	75	45
Minnesota	35	19	11	5	81	81	43
Dallas	32	15	12	5	92	99	35
Nashville	33	16	14	3	77	92	35
Winnipeg	35	15	15	5	93	102	35

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	35	23	7	5	111	89	51
Los Angeles	34	22	8	4	94	68	48
San Jose	33	20	7	6	108	82	46
Vancouver	35	20	10	5	98	83	45
Phoenix	32	18	9	5	104	100	41
Calgary	33	13	15	5	86	106	31
Edmonton	35	11	21	3	93	120	25

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Tuesday's results
Calgary at Boston
Winnipeg at Buffalo
Tampa Bay at NY Islanders
Florida at Toronto
Anaheim at Detroit
Phoenix at Montreal
Washington at Philadelphia
Vancouver at Minnesota
San Jose at St. Louis
Chicago at Nashville
Colorado at Dallas
Edmonton at Los Angeles

Monday's results
Winnipeg 3 Columbus 2
Pittsburgh 3 Toronto 1
Ottawa 3 St. Louis 2 (OT)
Colorado 6 Dallas 2

Wednesday's games
All Times Eastern
Ottawa at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at NY Rangers, 8 p.m.

Thursday's games
Phoenix at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Boston at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's games
Anaheim at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
Florida at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 8 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	19	28	47
Kane, Chi	19	26	45
Malkin, Pgh	9	32	41
Getzlaf, Ana	16	23	39
Ovechkin, Wash	27	10	37
Tavares, NYI	13	24	37
Perry, Ana	21	15	36
Backstrom, Wash	8	28	36
Steen, StL	22	13	35
Thornton, SJ	5	30	35
Seguin, Dal	18	15	33
Kunitz, Pgh	17	16	33
Sharp, Chi	16	17	33
Kessel, Tor	17	15	32
Ryan, Ott	16	16	32

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	20	4	.833	—
d-Miami	18	6	.750	2
Atlanta	13	12	.520	7½
d-Boston	12	14	.462	9
Detroit	12	14	.462	9
Washington	10	13	.435	9½
Charlotte	10	14	.417	10
Toronto	9	13	.409	10
Chicago	9	14	.391	10½
Cleveland	9	14	.391	10½
Brooklyn	9	15	.375	11
Orlando	8	17	.320	12½
New York	7	17	.292	13
Philadelphia	7	19	.269	14
Milwaukee	5	19	.208	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	21	4	.840	—
Oklahoma City	19	4	.826	1
d-San Antonio	19	5	.792	1½
d-L.A. Clippers	17	9	.654	4½
Houston	16	9	.640	5
Phoenix	14	9	.609	6
Denver	14	9	.609	6
Dallas	14	10	.583	6½
Golden State	13	12	.520	8
New Orleans	11	11	.500	8½
Minnesota	12	13	.480	9
L.A. Lakers	11	13	.458	9½
Memphis	10	13	.435	10
Sacramento	7	15	.318	12½
Utah	6	21	.222	16

x - clinched playoff berth; **y** - division; **z** - conference.

Tuesday's results
Portland at Cleveland
Sacramento at Charlotte
L.A. Lakers at Memphis
Oklahoma City at Denver
New Orleans at Golden State

Monday's results
Detroit 101 Indiana 96
Boston 101 Minnesota 97
Atlanta 114 L.A. Lakers 100
Miami 117 Utah 94
Washington 102 New York 101
Brooklyn 130 Philadelphia 94
Orlando 83 Chicago 82
L.A. Clippers 115 San Antonio 92

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End the Soul searching with Kia

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Review. New looks, new platform, but the same ...

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

It has a lot of new in it, on it and under it, but unless you're really paying attention, you might not realize it.

On the surface, you have to wonder about the time and money spent to build the 2014 Kia Soul, but it's really no different than with brands such as Mini that spend millions on a new car that looks much the same as before. That's "the brand" after all.

The Mini has more history than the Soul, but the Soul is no less unique and there is a certain cachet about it. Only a handful of models have tried to match the Soul's artful shape since it arrived for the 2011 model year. For the mid-cycle refresh, Kia's California and Korea-based design teams used the 2012 Track'ster concept show vehicle as a starting point. They did tone down that bit of zaniness (a two-door wagon doesn't cut it out in the real world), but a number of shape-shifting elements were passed along to the 2014 Soul. The Soul's overall packaging has also been upsized a bit. The distance between the front and rear wheels increases by about 2.5 centimetres while about 1.5-centimetres has been added to the width.

These changes, along with a slight body-height reduction, give the Soul a more planted appearance. On the practical side, cargo space has been increased slightly (with the rear seats up or folded flat) and the liftgate opening is now six centimetres wider. The added size comes from a new platform that's larger and considerably stiffer (by 29 per cent). Combined with a numerous suspension revisions, Kia claims the 2014 Soul is quieter and has an improved ride that performs more smoothly over bumps and undulations.

Also adding to the cabin's allure is a thoroughly revised and upgraded dashboard, control panel and seat coverings. Nearly all of the plasticity bits are now covered in/replaced with soft-touch materials, as are the door panels. The steering wheel resembles a game-console controller, but at least the controls are large enough to be activated by average-sized digits.

Both of the Soul's four-cylinder engine choices return for 2014, albeit in slightly revised form. The base 1.6-litre unit is rated at 130 horsepower and 118 pound-feet of torque (previously 138/123), while the optional 2.0-litre four-cylinder returns with the same 164 horsepower as before, but with a slight increase in torque. Kia says both powerplants make more torque in lower rev ranges for better around-town performance. With an $18,700 starting price (including destination charges), the base Soul LX covers the basics, but includes heated outside mirrors, six-speaker audio system and Bluetooth short-range wireless networking. Along with the larger engine and standard air conditioning and automatic transmission, the mid-range EX adds keyless entry, cruise control, heated front seats and 17-inch alloy wheels (16-inch steel wheels are standard).

Atop the Soul trim trio, the SX has 18-inch wheels and power-folding mirrors, while the interior comes with dual-zone climate control, leather seat covers, push-button start, a chilled glove box and a rear-view camera. The options list is truly extensive and covers off a navigation system with 20-centimetre touch-screen, power-sliding panoramic sunroof, 10-way power driver's seat and premium Infinity-brand sound package. Taken in its entirety, the Soul, like the Mini Cooper, is set up to be a niche brand unto itself with a wide range of pricing and options and, of course, that unmistakable "Soul-ness."

2014 Kia Soul

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 1.6-litre DOHC I4 (130); 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (164)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual; six-speed automatic (opt. with 1.6; std. with 2.0)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $18,700

Design

In front, a revised "bulldog" nose and enlarged grille adds greater definition, while at the opposite end the Track'ster-inspired boomerang-shaped taillights appear to be floating inside the rear glass, as does the rear body panel built into the liftgate. The effect is simply brilliant.

Fuel economy

The 1.6 comes with a six-speed manual transmission or optional six-speed automatic, but the 2.0 is only available with the automatic. The 1.6 is rated at 6.5 l/100 km in the city and 8.6 on the highway with the manual gearbox (6.6/8.5 with the automatic).

Compare

1 Fiat 500L
Base price: $21,700

2 Nissan Cube
Base price: $19,100

DRIVE

Stars of the future hit Hollywood

Autoknow. It's OK to dream in California but the real stuff out of LA is just as good

TODD D. BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

Stars and cars, flash and cash. The 2013 Los Angeles Auto Show didn't disappoint with its usual blend of style and speed, all gracing dozens of stages throughout the Los Angeles Convention Center.

From gaudy and showy to practical and ecological, nearly 50 production vehicles made worldwide and U.S. debuts alongside the launches of about a dozen fresh concepts.

With the global economy continuing to show signs of life, an estimated 1,000,000 spectators passed through the turnstiles during the 10-day event (Nov. 22 to Dec. 1) that unofficially kicks off the North American auto-show season every fall. Automakers pulled out all the horsepower and star-power to attract both thrifty and lavish new-car buyers this year in an ultra-competitive market. Tennis great Maria Sharapova climbed from the driver's seat of the new 2015 Porsche Macan during its unveiling — one of the most anticipated world debuts at the show — while NBA star Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers was in house to promote a long list of vehicles Kia brought to L.A. Sharing the same opening date as the 2013 Tokyo Motor Show, the L.A. Auto Show had to share some of the international headlines, but not enough to diminish the importance and influence this West Coast vehicle expo traditionally has on the approaching auto season.

Arguably the star of the show was the striking Mercedes Benz Vision Gran Turismo.

So, what's new?

When it comes to cars and California, enough is never enough in terms of styling, luxury and technology. Last year's message of conservative efficiency took a backseat this year to speed, power, status and excess.

The sleek and sexy 2015 Jaguar F-Type Coupe emerged as the headline act among the debut vehicles. Not even TV mogul Simon Cowell and supermodel Miranda Kerr could hold audience attention as the new Jaguar Coupe made its grand debut with a full-throttle, ear-busting entrance into the arena while the two stars stood nearby. Ready for spring of 2015, the best version of what is essentially a hardtop version of the two-seat F-Type roadster features a 550-horse-power supercharged V8 that propels it to 100 km/h from zero in 4.0 seconds and to a top speed of 298 km/h. For those with slightly smaller budgets, Porsche countered with its own show-stopper in the 2015 Macan, a compact tall wagon that combines pizzazz, per-formance and nearly endless customization options.

Porsche debuted two Macan models in L.A. with differing V6 powerplants: the 300-horse-power Macan S; and the 400-horsepower Macan Turbo. The Turbo goes from standstill to 100 km/h in 4.6 seconds. Both models are scheduled to arrive at Canadian dealerships late in the spring of 2015, with base pricing set at $54,300 (Canadian funds) for the S and $82,200 for the Turbo.

For the more blue-collar driver, Chevrolet launched its 2015 Colorado in the hopes of rejuvenating a rather stagnant mid-size pickup truck segment. Based on a new global truck platform first shown two years ago, Chevy believes the versatile Colorado will rival the popular small pickups from Toyota and Nissan, and appeal to people with active lifestyles who aren't interested in a car or a full-size truck. Quiet, com-fortable and rugged (according to Chevy), the Colorado will initially offer a 2.5-litre four-cylinder and a 3.6-litre V6. A six-speed automatic transmis-sion is standard, but a six-speed manual is also available (for four-cylinder Work Truck mod-els only) and a 2.8-litre turbo-diesel option will be added to the Colorado catalogue for the 2016 model year. Pricing has yet to be set.

Honda's extremely futuristic-looking concept, the FCEV, definitely got tongues wagging with its unusual yet sleek design

So, What else?

Production models weren't the only vehicles making headlines at the L.A. Auto Show as the usual parade of quirky and fascinating concept vehicles drew plenty of attention. By far, the Mercedes-Benz Vision Gran Turismo created the most chatter. This striking sports car features gull-wing doors and was designed to resemble a big cat on the hunt with a blend of some old-school clas-sic Mercedes race cars nicely blended in. Inspiration for the design came from the new Gran Turismo 6 video game.

And while there are no plans for a production version of this car, a few design ideas are expected to find some future Mercedes models, especially the replacement for the SLS AMG that's at the end of the road. Honda offered a glimpse into its long-term commitment to improving hydrogen fuel-cell technology and perform-ance — and perhaps a hint at the direction of some futuristic sci-fi looking model designs — with its FCEV. This creative concept is powered by a hydro-gen fuel "stack" that converts hydrogen to electricity. Instead of plugging in at night as you might with a battery powered car, you just make sure the tank is full of hydrogen and you're good to go. No "range anxiety," as long as there's hydrogen around. Honda plans to have it ready for production and launch sometime in 2015.

And with an eye to the longer-term, Ford pulled the curtain on its Edge concept, which is a vehicle that takes a couple more steps toward full vehicle autonomy with its use of ultrasonic sensors. It features a fully-assisted parking aid that can be activated from inside the vehicle or by remote control and will prompt the car to navigate into and out of a parking space, with no driver assistance. The LA Auto Show might never attract the media or industry interest of the annual show in Detroit (in January). But when it comes to celebrating big names and memorable debuts, nobody does it better than the folks in Tinsel Town.

Correction

In last week's AutoKnow we said the services of Canada Drive Away costed "typically not more than $500." It should have read not less than $500. Metro apologizes for the error.

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WELL-EQUIPPED WITH:
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PURCHASE FINANCE FOR ONLY **$148**** @ **1.99%** APR bi-weekly Financed bi-weekly for 84 months with $0 down. Offer exclude taxes.

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2013 F-150 Platinum 4x4 model shown

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Retail offers not combinable with any CPA/GBPC or Daily Rental incentives, the Commercial Upfit Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP). ▲Between December 16 – 29, 2013, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2014 Ford models (excluding C-MAX, Mustang Shelby and BOSS 302, Flex, Explorer, Expedition, Transit Connect, E-Series, F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2 Value Leader), F-35 to F-550, and medium trucks) for up to 60 months, to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/60/72 months, monthly payment is $520.83/ $416.66/ $347.22, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $25,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. ◊ Until December 29, 2013, Purchase a new [2014 Escape S FWD] / [2013 Fiesta SE Hatch]/2013 Focus S Sedan / 2013 F-150 XLT SuperCrew 4x4/ 2013 F-150 SuperCrew Platinum 4x4 5.0L] for [$24, 998] / [$13,998/ $14,498/ $30,968/$48,088] (after Manufacturer Rebate of [$750/ $3,500/ $3,000 / $9,250/ $9,250]). Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after total manufacturer rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight and air tax but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any Fleet consumer incentives. ** Until December 29, 2013, receive 1.99% APR purchase financing on new 2014 Escape S FWD models for up to 84 months, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: 2014 Escape S FWD for $24,998 (after $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, and $750 Manufacturer Rebate deducted) purchase financed at 1.99% APR for 84 months; monthly payment is $296 (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of $148), interest cost of borrowing is $1,811 at APR of 1.99% and total to be repaid is $26,586. Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. All purchase finance offers include freight and air tax and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any Fleet consumer incentives. *** Until December 29, 2013, receive 1.99% APR purchase financing on new 2014 Escape 2.5L I4 5-Speed Manual, 2014 Escape 2.5L I4 6-Speed Automatic, 2013 Fiesta 1.6L – I4 5-Speed Manual, 2013 F-150 4x4 5.0L – V8 6-Speed SST. Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada-approved test methods. Model shown is 2013 F-150 4x4 5.0L – V8 6-Speed SST: 15.1L/100 km city and 10.7L/100 km hwy. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ◊Offer only valid from December 2, 2013 to January 31, 2014 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with an eligible Costco membership on or before November 30, 2013 who purchase or lease (except in Quebec), see your local dealer for details. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Manufacturer rebates are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ◊ Until December 29, 2013, receive 1.99% APR purchase financing on new 2014 Escape 2.5L I4 6-Speed Automatic, 2013 Fiesta 1.6L – I4 5-Speed Manual, 2013 F-150 4x4 5.0L – V8 6-Speed SST. Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada-approved test methods. Model shown is 2013 F-150 4x4 5.0L – V8 6-Speed SST: 15.1L/100 km city and 10.7L/100 km hwy. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ◊Offer only valid from December 2, 2013 to January 31, 2014 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with an eligible Costco membership on or before November 30, 2013 who purchase or lease (except in Quebec), see your local dealer for details. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Manufacturer rebates are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ◊ Until December 29, 2013, receive 1.99% APR purchase financing on new 2014 Escape 2.5L I4 6-Speed Automatic, 2013 Fiesta 1.6L – I4 5-Speed Manual, 2013 F-150 4x4 5.0L – V8 6-Speed SST. Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada-approved test methods. Model shown is 2013 F-150 4x4 5.0L – V8 6-Speed SST: 15.1L/100 km city and 10.7L/100 km hwy. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ◊Offer only valid from December 2, 2013 to January 31, 2014 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with an eligible Costco membership on or before November 30, 2013 who purchase or lease of a new 2013/2014 Ford excluding Fiesta, Focus, C-Max, Raptor, GT500, Mustang Boss 302, Transit Connect EV, and Medium Truck) or Lincoln vehicle (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Limit one (1) offer per each Eligible Vehicle purchase or lease, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to persons domiciled with an eligible Costco member. Applicable taxes calculated before CAD$1,000 offer is deducted. ^Claim based on analysis by Ford of Polk global new registration for CY 2012 for a single nameplate which excludes redesigned vehicles, platform derivatives or other vehicle nameplate versions. †Based on R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. Total New Registration data for Full Size Pickups per Ford Segmentation as of YTD September 30, 2013. ©2013 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under license. ®Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc., used under license. ©2013 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

Parts department

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Small-sized, big power

It used to be that most portable power chargers used for starting vehicles with dead batteries were big and bulky and weighed a ton. That seems to be all in the past with the PowerAll power bank. This handy device holds enough juice to charge or start any 12-volt system using its own cable clamps, yet it's small enough (16 by 7.5- by 3.0 centimetres) to fit inside most glove boxes. The PowerAll's two USB computer ports can simultaneously charge up your cell phone plus other electronic devices and its built-in flashlight/flashing signal light offers significant illumination for up to 120 hours on a full charge. Check out the PowerAll at thepowerall.com and purchase the product for US $100 at amazon.com.

VW vans for kids

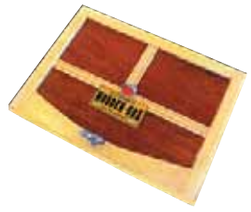
If you're looking for something to keep your small fry amused, check out this cool pop-up play tent that resembles a scaled-down 1965 Volkswagen Campervan. Suitable for both indoor and outdoor activities, the 166 by 53 by 76-centimetre tent is waterproof, constructed of fire-retardant materials and offers UV protection. Access is through a zippered entrance, while the mesh windows let in fresh air and can be easily covered up if necessary for protection from the elements. When not in use, the tent stores in a neat carrying pack that looks like an actual-size VW wheel-and-tire combo. The Campervan tent is available in blue or red and is available online and at retail outlets such as Bed Bath & Beyond for $70 in Canadian funds.

Collect wrecked rides

Model making is a passion for many car nuts, with most hobbyists assembling scale replicas of those pristine classics you'll find at most typical weeknight show-and-shine events. However, model maker John Findra, who is the proprietor of Classic Wrecks, prefers to portray his favourites as if they had been discovered in someone's barn or field. Findra begins with basic model kits that are available in most hobby stores. He then finishes each one so that it appears in an abandoned, rusted-out and generally neglected condition. The results are amazing, as you will discover after visiting his Web site that displays classic Chevrolets, Mustangs, Dodges, Pontiacs, etc. There are even a few distressed import cars. Prices run in the US $85-$100 range for each of these unusual pieces of automotive art. Shop the lot at etsy.com/shop/classicwrecks.

A box of wooden goodies

"Woodys" began as wood-formed wagon bodies attached to truck frames that were used primarily for commercial duty. Eventually they evolved into option packages using both wood and metal attached to wagons, convertibles and sedans. Now you can learn all there is to know about these highly collectable vehicles with Featherston's Treasure Box of Classic Woodys. This 400-page tome covers the history of these vehicles in words and pictures dating back to the turn on the 20th century. Also included is a special box with woody-themed postcards, toys, postage stamps, licence plate tags and decals. The box itself weighs about nine kilograms and can be reconfigured as a small garage to house scale-model woodys. The large US $500 price is reasonable since only 500 copies are planned. Visit: df-woodybook.com.



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2014 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Laramie Longhorn (EcoDiesel) shown. Late availability.§

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Wise customers read the fine print: •, *, ¥, ♦, ★, €, § The Motor Trend Truck of the Year Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers on or after December 10, 2013. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,695), air tax (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. •$26,295 Purchase Price applies to the new 2014 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR) only and includes $8,500 Consumer Cash Discount and $1,500 Holiday Bonus Cash. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select 2013/2014 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. ¥Holiday Bonus Cash of up to $1,500 is available on most new 2013 Dodge Dart, Ram Heavy Duty trucks and FIAT models (excluding the FIAT 500 Pop and Ram Cab & Chassis) and on most new 2014 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram and FIAT models, excluding the following: Chrysler 200 LX, Dodge Dart, Grand Caravan CVP, Journey CVP/SE, Avenger CVP, Viper, Jeep Compass Sport 4x2/4x4, Patriot Sport 4x2/4x4, Cherokee, Ram 1500 Reg Cab trucks, Ram Cab & Chassis, Ram Cargo Van, Ram ProMaster, FIAT 500 Pop, 500C, 500T and Abarth models. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. See your retailer for complete details. ♦4.99% lease financing of up to 48 months available on approved credit on eligible new Ram 1500 models through WS Leasing Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Westminster Savings Credit Union) to qualified customers at participating retailers in Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may lease for less. See your retailer for complete details. Example: 2014 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT (25A+AGR) with a Purchase Price of $26,295 leased at 4.99% over 48 months with $998 down payment, equals 104 bi-weekly payments of $179 with a cost of borrowing of $4,201.80 and a total obligation of $21,118.24. 2014 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT (25A+AGR) with a Purchase Price of $26,295 leased at 4.99% over 48 months with $998 down payment, equals 48 monthly payments of $389 with a cost of borrowing of $4,196.52 and a total obligation of $21,112.32. 22,000 kilometre/year allowance. Charge of $0.18 per excess kilometre. Some conditions apply. ★The Make No Payments for 90 Days offer applies to retail customers who finance a new 2014 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram vehicle (except 2014 Dodge Avenger CVP and Dodge Viper) or eligible 2013 Dodge Dart, Ram Heavy Duty or Fiat model at a special fixed rate on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, TD Auto Finance or Scotiabank between December 10, 2013 and January 2, 2014. Offer does not apply to Scotiabank special rate financing contracts longer than 90 months. Monthly payments will be deferred for 60 days and contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. Customers will be responsible for any required down payment, licence, registration and insurance costs at time of contract. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. €$10,000 in Total Discounts is available on new 2014 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of $8,500 in Consumer Cash Discounts and $1,500 in Holiday Bonus Cash. §2014 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Laramie Longhorn (EcoDiesel) shown. Late availability. **Based on Chrysler Group internal fuel economy ratings. ≠Based on *Automotive News* classification and 2013/2014 Ram 1500 3.6 L V6 4x2 and 8-speed transmission. 11.4 L/100 km (25 MPG) City and 7.8 L/100 km (36 MPG) Highway. Based on 2013 EnerGuide fuel consumption guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. Ask your retailer for complete EnerGuide information. =Based on longevity of entire Ram large pickup segment compared to all competitive large pickups on the road since 1988. Longevity based on R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. Canadian Vehicles in Operation data as of November 1, 2013 for model years 1988-2013 for all large pickups sold and available in Canada over the last 25 years. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

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HONDA

Limited time lease and finance offers available through Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFS), to qualified retail customers on approved credit. Selling prices and payments include freight and PDI (ranges from $1,495 to $1,640 depending on 2013 model and $1,695 on advertised 2014 models), EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C levy ($100 except Civic DX and Fit DX models), and OMVIC fee ($5). Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. ΩRepresentative bi-weekly lease example: 2013 Civic DX Sedan // 2014 CR-V LX 2WD on a 60 month term with 130 bi-weekly payments at 1.99% // 2.99% lease APR. Bi-weekly payment is $88 // $148.74 with $0 // $0 down or equivalent trade-in, $66 // $0 individual dealer contribution deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes, $0 security deposit, and first bi-weekly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $11,439.71 // $19,336.43. 120,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. PPSA lien registration fee of $45.93 and lien registering agent's fee of $5.65, due at time of delivery are not included. Limited time SE Accessory Package installed for $4.88 more bi-weekly (plus taxes) on a 2014 CR-V LX 2WD includes all advertised items plus "SE" badge. †Representative bi-weekly finance example: 2013 Civic DX Sedan on an 84 month term with 182 bi-weekly payments at 1.99% APR [including $1,600 Finance incentive and $476.65 individual dealer contribution deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes]. Incentives apply only to Finance contracts through HFS, and can be combined with subvented rates of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. Finance amount is $14,939. Cost of borrowing is $1,077.28 for a total finance obligation of $16,016.28 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in. *$500 // $1,000 Holiday Bonus offer applies only to retail customer purchase or lease agreements for new 2013 Civic models // 2013 Fit and 2014 CR-V models concluded between December 13th, 2013 and January 2nd, 2014 at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. Deducted from the negotiated price after taxes and can be combined with advertised lease and finance rates. µLimited time 0.99% APR lease offers on remaining new 2013 Fit DX // 2013 Civic DX Sedan // 2013 CR-Z // 2013 Accord EX Coupe 6MT // 2013 Accord LX Sedan 6MT // 2013 CR-V LX 2WD for a maximum of 24 // 24 // 24 // 42 // 24 // 36 months. Representative lease example: 2013 Civic DX Sedan on a 24 month term at 0.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $287.20 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $6,892.80. 48,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. PPSA lien registration fee of $18.81 and lien registering agent's fee of $5.65, due at time of delivery are not included. ¨Receive 0.99% APR purchase financing on remaining new 2013 Fit DX // 2013 Civic DX Sedan // 2013 CR-Z // 2013 Accord EX Coupe 6MT // 2013 Accord LX Sedan 6MT // 2013 CR-V LX 2WD models for a maximum of 36 // 48 // 24 // 60 // 24 // 48 months. Representative finance example: 2013 Civic DX Sedan on a 24 month term at 0.99% APR and finance amount of $16,991.65 the monthly payment is $715.31. Cost of borrowing is $175.79 for a total finance obligation of $17,167.44 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in. •$1,500 // $1,500 // $3,000 // $1,500 // $2,000 // $3,500 // $2,000 // $2,500 // $4,000 // $5,000 // $5,000 customer cash incentive is valid on remaining new 2013 Fit (except DX) // 2013 Civic Coupe and Sedan (except DX Sedan) // 2013 Accord Coupe (except EX Coupe 6MT) // 2013 Accord Sedan (except LX Sedan 6MT, EX-L V6 Sedan and Touring V6 Sedan) // 2013 Accord EX-L V6 Sedan and Touring V6 Sedan // 2013 Crosstour EX 2WD and EX-L 2WD // 2013 Crosstour EX-L 4WD and EX-L 4WD NAVI // 2013 CR-V (except LX 2WD) // 2013 Odyssey // 2013 Pilot // 2013 Ridgeline models when registered and delivered between December 3rd, 2013 and January 2nd, 2014. Cash incentive is available for all Honda retail customers except customers who lease or finance through HFS at a subvented rate of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. All advertised lease and finance rates are special rates. Cash incentive will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. For all offers: taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. ••Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2012. **Based on Fuel Consumption Guide ratings from Natural Resources Canada. Transport Canada approved test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors – use for comparison only. §2013 Canadian Black Book Best Retained Value Award winner – Sub-Compact Car category. Based on value retained from original MSRP for 2009 model year vehicles as published by CBB, as of 1 January 2013. See CanadianBlackBook.com for complete details.

Pioneer's AppRadio 3 in-dash system. CONTRIBUTED

AppRadio 3 delivers the goods

In-dash system. Pioneer's latest offers versatile and advanced apps to improve your ride

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

Ever see someone staring intently downwards, possibly smiling, while driving? The motorist in question isn't inspecting or grinning at the appearance of their crotch. They're using their smartphone — which is, of course, dangerous, naughty and likely to result in a pricey texty-driving ticket.

For those not in the new-car market, numerous mobile electronics manufacturers are offering aftermarket solutions to stay entertained, informed and in touch on the go — without the risk of earning yourself a distraction-related ticket from the local constabulary.

One such manufacturer is Pioneer. Their latest AppRadio 3 in-dash system aims to deliver integrated smartphone functionality, including developer-driven apps, to the dashboard of virtually any ride.

Like your phone, the AppRadio 3 touch-screen unit has a few hard buttons for tactile maneuvering and a big, vivid touch screen for everything else.

Out of the box, AppRadio 3 delivers the latest Bluetooth integration for hands-free calling and audio streaming, a built in radio tuner, available CD, iPod integration and more. All functions are manipulated on the big, bright touch screen via the same slide, swipe, pinch and flick gestures you're familiar with from your smartphone.

Functionality

"With just a simple Bluetooth connection AppRadio 3 works just like some of the best new-car infotainment systems out there."

I could stream internet radio stations, place, accept and dismiss phone calls, and easily browse my phone's music playlist, while said phone was gobbling up delicious electrons recharging in the glovebox.

Got an iPhone? Once Bluetooth pairing is complete, drivers benefit from integrated voice-command functionality, as Siri is migrated into the AppRadio 3 unit. Voice command is supported on Android devices too.

This eyes-free, hands-free voice-command stuff was a welcomed bonus uncommon in new rides, which typically make you use their clumsier and more rigid voice interface.

Advanced users will enjoy further enhanced functionality enabled by plugging their smartphone into the head-unit via a cable hidden away in the glovebox or console. Connected via both Bluetooth and the cable, drivers can swipe through their phone's photo gallery, access their calendar, call up their native mapping program on-screen and more.

For the most appealing part of the AppRadio 3 unit for advanced users, install the free AppRadio program on your smartphone, and a list of available AppRadio apps populates every time you access it.

Available apps at the time of writing included various web browsers, media players, navigation interfaces, internet radio tuners and the like. These apps link between your data-equipped smartphone and the AppRadio 3 screen for a fully integrated experience.

I enjoyed the in-car browser app for its ability to play back media on the large screen and use the vehicle's stereo system when I wanted to show my friends some funny internet videos. Other available apps even deliver performance meters and data displays for your vehicle's engine, right on the screen. That's only the beginning — as the available apps expand in number and genre, the system will only get better.

Your writer left the AppRadio 3 impressed, mostly, with the access to the voice-command system from his smartphone and its ability to provide calling, texting and other functions in a hands-free, eyes-free manner without learning a new voice interface.

Complaints? Some of the apps cost a buck or two, some even more than that, and selection is currently limited. Initial setup and familiarity with the AppRadio 3's operation can be difficult or frustrating for less electronics-savvy users like your writer.

End of the day, this unit is a worthy way to access full Bluetooth functionality, hands-free voice-command, and get a great big, easy-to-use screen into your ride from about $430.

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Winter gasoline in Canada is different than gasoline used during other seasons. CANADIAN TIRE

Winter gas: Blend of the festive season

Higher RVP. Reid Vapour Pressure levels are higher in the fuel used during the cold months to ensure easier starts for vehicles

JIL MCINTOSH
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Just as the weather changes from summer to winter, so does gasoline. Stations are now selling winter gas, specially blended for the season.

"Winter gas can have a higher RVP, or Reid Vapor Pressure," says Wayne Moorehead, marketing manager for Canadian Tire Petroleum. "That is a measurement of the volatility of the fuel, and how subject it is to evaporation. In winter, you want a fuel that has higher volatility, because it's easier for the vehicle to start."

But there's more to it than that, and it comes down to government-mandated emissions standards. There are several places where gasoline vapours can enter the atmosphere: at the station when you're filling up, out of the filler neck if your gas cap isn't tight, and possibly out of the tailpipe, if small amounts of unburned fuel make their way back there.

Gasoline evaporates faster when the outside temperature is hot. A fuel with lower RVP—one that's refined specifically to evaporate more slowly—is less likely to send harmful emissions into the air, and so the mandated standards require refineries to make lower-RVP fuel for sale during the summer months.

However, lower-RVP fuel requires a different refining process. It's costlier to make, and Moorehead says it's tougher to produce the large quantities of fuel needed in winter. Since gasoline naturally evaporates more slowly at cold temperatures, the emissions standards allow for higher-RVP fuel to be sold in the winter.

When it's cold out, some drivers worry about their fuel freezing up. However, it's far less of a problem now that cars have fuel injection, rather than carburetors, which were far more likely to experience issues with their fuel lines icing up.

Keeping your fuel tank full will help prevent water in the gas, which is the stuff that freezes. "Drive on the top half of the tank, not the bottom half," Moorehead says.

"A fuller tank has less area for condensation to take place, and having more fuel will spread out any water that is in there. People should also make sure the fuel cap fits properly, too. If you have a loose cap and it's not sealed properly, there's an opportunity for moisture to get in."

That full tank could also help ensure your safety. Cars generally get poorer mileage in the winter, and if the weather turns bad or traffic backs up, your commute could take much longer than normal. If your tank is close to empty, you could run out of gas and be left stranded.

Tips

- **Manual.** Go by the octane recommendation in your owner's manual. If you only need 87-octane regular fuel, there's no need to use premium.
- **Location, location.** Be smart when fuel-shopping. You'll burn up a few cents difference if the cheaper station is far away, or there's a long line at the pumps.

Three ways to beat the winter driving blues

Joe Hallett of the British rubber development firm, ARTIS, holds the concept tire commissioned by Canadian Tire. It's sidewall turns blue at 7 degrees C, when it's time to get into the winter tire mood. PHOTO: CANADIAN TIRE

Fun, diversity and technology. Enjoy the shaky ride and the skill involved to control in harsh conditions while appreciating the tires that help you do so

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Seems to me it's just as crucial to prepare your mood for winter driving as it is to prepare your vehicle for winter driving.

This occurred to me last weekend as I drove through a winter storm, or at least what the weather media elite here in Central Canada now call a winter storm. Could be wrong, but didn't we once just call this type of thing "winter"? Anyways, here are three ways you might adjust your mood, to be the boss of winter driving, and not the other way around…

Realize the Fun Factor

It's not a wintery mess, it's an opportunity to get the vehicle a little "loose" on the snow. And that's fun. Well, fun until you hit something hard, and a lot of people in uniforms come calling. Sliding around an empty, snow-covered parking lot, used to be the time-honoured way teenage boys learned car control. Put on some Twisted Sister and give it a try. Even if you don't have a run-off safety zone or empty parking lot at your disposal, just revel in the extra brain energy it takes to drive on slippery surfaces. It's engaging, entertaining and probably at least as effective in staving off dementia as doing crossword puzzles.

Appreciate the Diversity of Driving Talent

Nothing separates the good driver from the duffer like a snowy road. The speed differential between a person who knows how to drive in the snow, with a vehicle equipped for such, versus a person who has no clue, with a vehicle with even less of clue, is really quite amazing. If you're the former, and following the latter and can't pass, it can be one of the most exasperating driving scenarios you'll every encounter. It's the driving equivalent of having your recess time cut into, because your teacher won't release the whole class until everybody has their coats on, and some of your classmates are still confounded by the physics of zippers. Instead of seething and showing off your excellent vocabulary of four-letter words, why not just revel in the diversity, and let patience and the pride of your superior driving abilities be your predominant state of mind.

Leverage the Technology

Winter tire technology has shot up lately. They used to be quite a bit better in the cold, slush and snow than all-seasons. Now they're crazy better. They take a winter weakling of a vehicle and turn it into a minor superhero of a winter vehicle, and driving a superhero is definitely mood-altering. And we'd like to give props to Canadian Tire, for being the first to commission the development of an all-season tire that actually changes colour at 7 degrees Celsius, the point at which they start to struggle, by becoming less pliable and less able to grip the road. It's your signal that it's time to swap them for those super capable winters.

Interestingly, the technology is not unlike a mood ring. When the temperature drops, you mood is susceptible to drop too. But it doesn't have to — mind bend it the other way.

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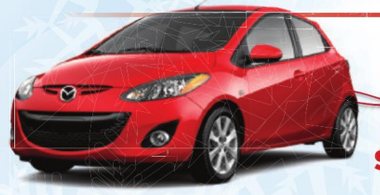
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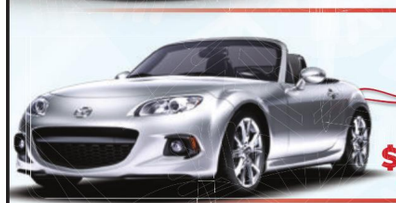
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Profile
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Metro Toronto
Developing: 401 eastbound ramp closed after fatal crash ow.ly/mtKWu #Toronto
Metro Toronto
Milton family in "terrible pain" as autopsy confirms toddler left in car died from heat exposure ow.ly/mtHc
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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will get exactly what you deserve today: no more and no less. If the rewards are good don't doubt that you have earned them; and if the rewards are not so good then aim to do better next time.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You will have to do something that makes you unpopular but if you don't do it now you may have to do something twice as bad later on.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Money matters may be causing you concern but other aspects indicate you can still have lots of fun. Besides, if you keep too tight a hold of the purse strings now you may have to spend more later.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The important thing today is that you don't over-extend yourself physically, financially or emotionally. Know your limits and stay within them.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Cosmic activity in positive areas of your chart urges you to open up and let friends and family know what you need in terms of both material wellbeing and emotional support.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
People will be demanding of you today and there may come a time when you realize you are being taken for a ride. The fact is they could have done most of these things for themselves if they wanted to. Make them wish they had.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
At some stage today your frustration is likely to bubble over and you will say or do something that you later regret. But, even so, it's good to remind those around you that your patience is finite.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You won't get things all your own way today, especially on the home front where partners and loved ones are anything but reasonable. The good news is this is only a passing phase.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There will be a setback concerning a money matter or business deal and you won't be happy about it. But is it worth getting worked up about?

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It seems you are stuck with a decision you took a while back and would do anything to get yourself out of now. That might just be possible today but the planets warn it won't come cheap.

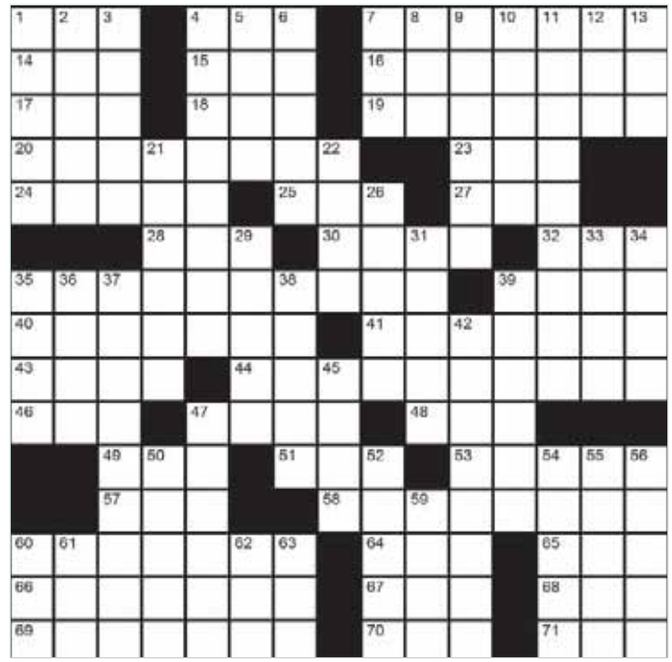
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Delays of one sort or another are likely over the next 24 hours but while it may be frustrating it could also inspire you to try a different route.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You seem to have lost your way a little and the planets suggest you swallow your pride and ask someone who knows what they are doing to help you. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across

1. 15, 30 or 50, e.g.
4. Opening
7. Truck
14. Airport sched. word
15. British singer Rita
16. By mistake: 2 wds.
17. __-disant (Self-styled)
18. Martini ingredient
19. Canadian comic book superheroine, __ of the Northern Lights
20. Saskatchewan city east of Saskatoon
23. Driver's proof, e.g.
24. Improvise
25. Sushi tuna
27. Tattoo artist's supply
28. "__ _ guy walks into..."
30. Botanist Mr. Gray's
32. Sports org.
35. Michael J. Fox, e.g.: 2 wds.
39. Earth's inner
40. Where Zagreb is the capital
41. Acquiesces
43. Er, I don't know-ish
44. Winter resort accommodations: 2 wds.
46. Literary fairy queen
47. Molt
48. Fashionable monogram
49. Freelancer's encl.
51. Six, in Italy
53. Entire
57. No Scrubs group
58. Canadian hockey brothers Phil or Tony
60. Mercy Mercy Me (The __) by Marvin Gaye
64. Playboy Mansion's man, for short
65. Dorothy, to pals
66. Encounter: 2 wds.
67. Goof
68. Bug kind
69. Alberta village, home of the World's Largest Pyrogy
70. Actor Mr. Knight, et al.
71. Uncle on Seinfeld

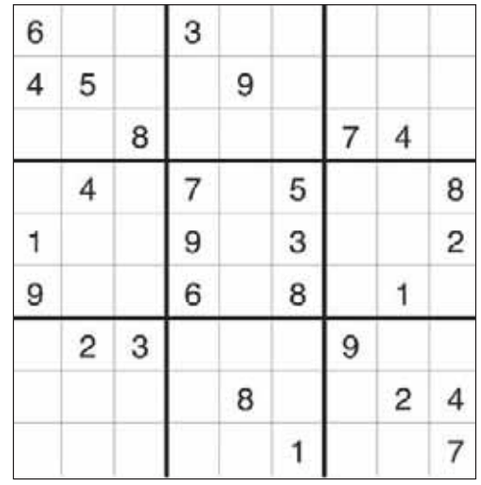
Down

1. Alexander's nickname
2. Peacock's feeling
3. Czech composer, Rudolf __
4. 1960s dancer's outfit part: 2 wds.
5. Botanical 'coat'
6. Zoo attraction
7. Wine: French
8. Compass†point
9. Steve McQueen war movie, __ __ for Heroes (1962)
10. Dick __, legendary Montreal Canadiens coach
11. De-cypher: 2 wds.
12. Mr. Chaney
13. Period
21. France/Spain: Bay of __
22. "Take __!"
26. Hero of Upper Canada, Sir __ Brock (b.1769 - d.1812)
29. TLC's Breaking __
31. Like a shoe's support
33. Guitar bar
34. Not as much
35. Pond guck
36. __ S. Rombauer (Joy of Cooking author)
37. Yukon: __ Territorial Park
38. "For goodness __!"
39. Orchestra instruments
42. Left-overs
45. Obsession, __ fixe
47. Canadian cafe chain, __ Cup
50. __ __ the Family
52. The Kid __ __ Tonite by Loverboy
54. Word with Wave
55. Make up for
56. __ 6/49
59. "...and a partridge in a __ tree."
60. Work unit
61. __-de-sac
62. Ronny & The Daytonas hit
63. Far, quaintly

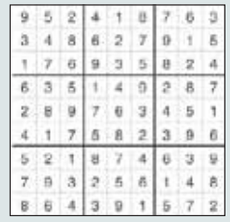
Yesterday's Crossword

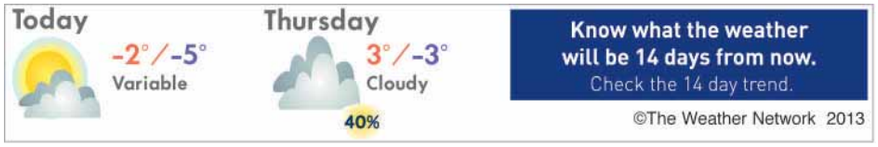
Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku





The power of education makes for more happily ever afters.

Soft Toys for Education is back. For any soft toy or children's book purchased at IKEA between October 27 and January 4, the IKEA Foundation will donate $1 to Save the Children and UNICEF so that more children can go to school.

unicef Save the Children

IKEA

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OR CHOOSE UP TO 750 EXTRA BONUS

UP TO 0%** FINANCING 84 MONTHS

ON SELECT MODELS

KIA

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30 CARS LEFT! 60 DAYS. 60 DAYS.

DAILY DRAWS! ENTER EARLY TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING!

Rondo EX Luxury shown△

reddot design award winner 2013

7 PASSENGER SEATING AVAILABLE

THE ALL-NEW 2014 RONDO

HWY (M/T): 6.2L/100KM
CITY (M/T): 9.4L/100KM

WIN IT

OR

OWN IT FOR ONLY $19,893‡

INCLUDES $4,000‡ CASH SAVINGS

Offer includes delivery, destination, fees and **$4,000 CASH SAVINGS‡**. Offer based on 2014 Rondo LX MT with a purchase price of **$23,893**. Excludes HST.

Sorento EX shown△

Best New SUV ($35,000 – $60,000)

THE NEW 2014 SORENTO

HWY (A/T): 7.1L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 10.4L/100KM

WIN IT

OR

OWN IT FROM $159≠ BI-WEEKLY AT 0% APR

+ DON'T PAY 'TIL SPRING® OR GET UP TO 375 EXTRA BONUS

Bi-weekly for 60 months, amortized over 84 months with **$0 DOWN PAYMENT**. Remaining balance of $8,255. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees. Offer based on 2014 Sorento 2.4L LX AT FWD with a purchase price of **$28,893**. Excludes HST.

Forte SX shown△

THE ALL-NEW 2014 FORTE

HWY (M/T): 5.3L/100KM
CITY (M/T): 8.0L/100KM

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+ DON'T PAY 'TIL SPRING® OR GET UP TO 250 EXTRA BONUS

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Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes delivery and destination fees, dealer admin. fee up to $399 and all mandatory government levies. Prices do not include licensing or applicable taxes.

KIA The Power to Surprise

Offer(s) available on select new 2013/2014 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery by January 2, 2014. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,665, $34 tire recycling/filter charges, $5 OMVIC fee, environmental fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399) and $100 A/C charge (where applicable) and excludes licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. **0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013/2014 Kia models O.A.C. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. ***Don't Pay Until Spring" offer (150-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing on select new 2014 models. No interest will accrue during the first 120 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest accrues and the purchaser will repay both the principal and interest monthly over the contract's term. $Up to $750 customer bonus is available on 2014 Cadenza ($750), 2013/2014 Rio/Rio5 door ($200), 2013/2014 Soul ($250), 2014 Forte ($250), 2013/2014 Optima/Optima Hybrid ($300), 2013/2014 Sportage ($300), 2014 Sorento ($375), 2014 Rondo ($300), 2014 Sedona ($400). Savings cannot be combined with Don't Pay Until Spring offer. Offer only available on finance terms, not cash or lease offers. ≠Bi-weekly finance payment O.A.C. for new 2014 Sorento 2.4L LX AT FWD (SR75BE)/2014 Forte LX MT (F054IE) based on a selling price of $28,893/17,913 is $159/$98 with an APR of 0% for 60/84 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $8,255/$0 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ‡Cash purchase price for the new 2014 Rondo LX MT (RN55IE) is $19,893 and includes a cash savings of $4,000 (which is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers). Retailer may sell for less. ‡$4,000 cash savings on the cash purchase of an eligible new 2014 Rondo LX MT (RN55IE) from a participating dealer between December 3, 2013-January 2, 2014, is deducted from the selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers including the "Don't Pay Until Spring" offer. Some conditions apply. ^NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Phase 1 Entry Period ended November 30, 2013, at the close of regular business hours at participating Kia dealerships. Phase 2 Entry Period ends December 31, 2013, at the close of regular business hours at participating Kia dealerships. Open to age-of-majority residents of Canada. 60 Prizes (30 attributed to Phase 1 and 30 attributed to Phase 2), each consisting of a cheque that may range in value from $15,350 to $46,859. Odds of winning a Phase 1 Prize depend on the number of eligible Phase 1 Entries received before the applicable Phase 1 Draw Date. Odds of winning a Phase 2 Prize depend on the number of eligible Phase 2 Entries received before the applicable Phase 2 Draw Date. Skill-testing question required. For full contest rules and no-purchase entry details, visit www.kia.ca. △Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2014 Sorento 3.3L EX AT AWD (SR75HE)/2014 Forte SX (F074BE)/2014 Rondo EX Luxury (RN75GE) is $34,195/$26,195/$32,195. ^Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2014 Sorento LX 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2014 Forte 1.8L MPI 4-cyl (M/T)/2014 Rondo 2.0L GDI 4-cyl (M/T). These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.